

# CHICAGO

DIRECT FLIGHTS EVERY MONDAY & THURSDAY.  
SAME AIRCRAFT, NOON DEPARTURES,  
SUNSET ARRIVALS.

ROYAL JORDANIAN

# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation  
جوردان تايمز يومية مستقلة تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية «الراي»

## Iraq launches new exploration drive

NICOSIA (AP) — Iraq has launched an oil and gas exploration drive despite a U.N. embargo on fuel exports, the Iraqi News Agency reported Monday. Oil Minister Safa Hadi Jawad was quoted as saying six geological teams had been set up to carry out surveys mainly in the southern and western sectors of Iraq. Iraq is lobbying the United Nations to lift the three-year-old embargo imposed after its invasion of Kuwait in August 1990, which led to the Gulf war. The INA report quoted Mr. Jawad as saying some 1,300 geologists, geophysicists and engineers were on the teams. They will look for new reserves in the provinces of Basra, Wasit, Al Anbar and Ninawa and in the western desert and southeast of the Euphrates River. Oil Ministry workers have already dug wells in different parts of the country and plan to sink more in Al Anbar, Salah Al Din, Maysan, Al Basrah, Wasit and Diyala provinces, the report said. Mr. Jawad said they achieved "remarkable results" despite difficulties caused by U.N. trade sanctions, such as the lack of special equipment needed to carry out surveys and spare parts.

Volume 18 Number 5498

AMMAN TUESDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1993. RAGAB 15, 1414

Price: 150 Fils

## Israel, Vatican to swap envoys in January

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israel and the Vatican will exchange envoys in January in a first step towards forging full diplomatic ties, Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin said Monday. The appointments will be made under a 14-point agreement which Israel and the Vatican are scheduled to sign on Dec. 30, said Mr. Beilin, who represents Israel in negotiations with the Vatican. Some details of the agreement still have to be worked out, he told AFP without elaborating. But it includes the naming of a special Israeli envoy to the Vatican with ambassador status, and a Vatican representative in Israel, he said. They will be upgraded to ambassadors by April when both sides will have completely normalised ties, he said.

## Peres: Television threatens Israel

PARIS (AFP) — The worst threat to Israel is not military, but cultural, according to Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres. "For us, as for you, the greatest threat isn't a military invasion, but a cultural invasion and cable television is more dangerous to our identity than the intifada," the minister said in an interview published by the French newspaper Le Monde in its edition dated Tuesday. "Television knows no boundaries and for some (Israeli) youths the most important woman isn't Rebecca, nor Sarah, but Madonna," Mr. Peres said, speaking of women out of the Old Testament and of the U.S. pop star figure.

## U.S. companies evade sanctions — report

WASHINGTON (AFP) — American corporations regularly evade U.S. sanctions by using their foreign subsidiaries to conduct business with Cuba and Libya, the New York Times reported Monday. The companies are taking advantage of porous laws and lax enforcement of U.S. trade sanctions, the daily said, citing Treasury Department studies. A 1987 study of the American presence in Libya concluded that 160 foreign subsidiaries of 80 U.S. companies were doing at least \$266 million of trade with Tripoli. In 1991, subsidiaries of U.S. companies did more than \$700 million of trade with Cuba, according to another study. That amount has dropped sharply since the 1992 passage of a law barring subsidiaries from doing business with Havana.

## 9 killed in Algeria

ALGIERS (R) — Seven armed militants and a police inspector were killed in clashes around Algeria over the past five days, the state news agency APS quoted security services as saying on Monday. A second police inspector was killed, according to Al Watan independent newspaper from his family. The deaths bring to at least 169 the number of people killed this month, including 16 foreigners.

## China to abolish Hong Kong assembly

HONG KONG (AFP) — China said Monday it would carry out its threat to abolish Hong Kong's legislative assembly on July 1, 1997, the day Beijing resumes sovereignty of this British colony. In a Xinhua News Agency report monitored here, a spokesman for the Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office said the assembly and other local legislative bodies would be disbanded and then "reorganised" under Chinese rule. The spokesman said that, with the termination of British rule, all laws concerning the terms of office for the three levels of government in the colony would be abolished as they contravened the basic law. The statement was the first official confirmation that China would act on its warning to close the Legislative Council following an acrimonious row with Britain.

# King receives message from Assad, holds talks with Farouk Al Sharaa Syria to insist on full implementation of U.N. resolutions

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday received a message from Syrian President Hafez Al Assad dealing with Jordanian-Syrian coordination in the Middle East peace process. The message was delivered by Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa.

In a meeting at the royal palace attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, King Hussein and Mr. Sharaa exchanged views on various regional and international issues and discussed the latest developments in the Middle East peace process, affirming the importance of continued Arab coordination with the aim of regaining Arab rights and achieving a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the region," the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said. The King and Mr. Sharaa also discussed Jordanian-Syrian relations and means of enhancing them, Petra said. The audience was attended by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali, Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, the King's Political Advisor Marwan Al Qasem and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan. On the Syrian side, the meeting was attended by Syrian Charge d'Affaires in Amman Ahmad Al Dabbas. Earlier, Dr. Majali met with

Mr. Sharaa and discussed bilateral relations and the peace process.

Mr. Sharaa also had a meeting at the Foreign Ministry with Mr. Hassan on coordinating Jordanian-Syrian stands on the peace process and to discuss means of unifying Arab ranks.

Mr. Hassan and Mr. Sharaa also discussed the prospects for convening the joint Higher Jordanian-Syrian Committee to discuss cooperation. Mr. Sharaa said upon his departure that Middle East peace talks will resume in Washington if a U.S.-Syrian summit meeting in mid-January is successful.

Mr. Sharaa said Syria was not affected by the state of Israeli-Palestinian talks.

"Steps are going to take place next month which will result, if all goes well, in convening a new round of peace negotiations in Washington," Mr. Sharaa told reporters before returning to Syria after his four-hour visit to Amman.

"It is very difficult to predict the results of the summit meeting which would be held in Geneva between President Hafez Al Assad and President Bill Clinton," Mr. Sharaa said. "But we hope results would be positive and we hope to push the peace process forward

in order to achieve a just and comprehensive settlement in the region," he added.

Mr. Sharaa said Syria's position in the U.S.-brokered peace talks, which have completed 11 rounds after starting more than two years ago in Madrid, had not changed.

"Syria's stand is very well known. We hope that the requirement for implementation of U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 as well as 425 concerning Lebanon would be achieved," he said.

In Damascus, the official press said Monday that Mr. Assad will tell President Clinton next month that Israel must quit all the occupied territories if peace is to be achieved.

The government newspaper Tishrin said the Geneva talks were of "extreme importance" and that the Syrian president would call for a "complete Israeli withdrawal" from the Golan Heights, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

In a swipe at the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) deal for limited Palestinian autonomy, it said Syria "has never believed in separate compromises," and had warned against the dangers they present and gave equal value to all occupied

(Continued on page 5)

## Rabin wins confidence motion on peace talks

TEL AVIV (AP) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's parliament won a comfortable victory on Monday over a motion of no confidence brought by opponents of the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) accord, despite a delay in implementation and continued violence.

The opposition called for the vote in protest over peacemaking with the PLO and attacks against Israelis by Palestine hardliners.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said the government would push ahead with the peace effort no matter how long it took.

"It will take a day or two, a week or two, a month or two months, but we will stand firm on principles," Mr. Peres said in the parliament, or Knesset, prior to departing for Cairo to lead negotiations with the PLO.

Israel missed a Dec. 13

deadline to withdraw from the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho, principally because of disagreement over who will control border crossings with Egypt and Jordan.

The motion in the 120-seat parliament was defeated 54 to 44 with two members of the ultra-religious Shas party abstaining.

Government whips went as far as the hospital to round up coalition members. Labour Party legislator Salah Tarif, hospitalised for back surgery, was brought in a wheelchair for the vote.

Mr. Rabin commands the loyalty of 56 legislators and is guaranteed the support of another five legislators belonging to Arab parties on peace issues, allowing him a bare majority of 61 in a full house. After the Sept. 13 Israel-PLO accord, the opposition

(Continued on page 5)

## Soviet emigres protest menial jobs in Israel

TEL AVIV (AP) — Two hundred doctors, engineers and teachers from the former Soviet Union marched past Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's office Monday carrying squeegees in protest of the menial labour many are forced to do.

Israeli officials say 80 per cent of the immigrants are employed. But many sweep streets, clean floors or guard buildings, and fewer than half the professionals who have immigrated since 1989 have found jobs in their fields.

"We are sick of being regarded as some bothersome element. We want things to be better for everyone," shouted Nathan Sharansky, a former Soviet prisoner of conscience whose Soviet Zionist Forum sponsored the protest.

Actors put on a skit with a mock demand for parliament to pass a law requiring immigrants to put in at least a six-month "scrubbing period,"

since that is what ends up happening to many.

Forum figures show that two-thirds of engineers, 60 per cent of physicians and more than 70 per cent of teachers are not working in their fields.

In all, 84,000 such professionals have immigrated in a wave of 473,000 newcomers to Israel from the former Soviet Union since 1989. More than half the immigrants arrived before the end of 1990. The flow has slowed along with the job market with only about 61,700 expected this year.

Former Soviets make up nearly half of Israel's immigrant labour force, and activists contend the demeaning labour is slowing down the immigrant flow and demoralising many who are already here.

"I have no doubt that if the situation were better we could expect much larger numbers of immigrants," said Yuli Koshorovsky, vice president of Mr. Sharansky's forum.

## Activists urge Egypt to locate Kikhia

AMMAN (AP) — Human rights activists Monday called on Egypt to exert pressure on Libya to track down a leading dissident who vanished from a Cairo hotel earlier this month.

More than 100 Jordanian lawmakers, unionists and members of political parties attended a rally for former Libyan Foreign Minister Mansur Kikhia, who disappeared Dec. 10 while attending a human rights conference in the Egyptian capital.

Speakers suggested that Libya abducted Mr. Kikhia and held the Egyptian government responsible for finding him.

"It is imperative for us to discover Kikhia's whereabouts, and Egypt is asked to investigate the matter with Libyan authorities," said Amin Shukier, head of the Jordanian branch of the Cairo-based Arab Organisation for Human Rights.

Mr. Kikhia, 62, was Libya's chief delegate to the United Nations for five years until quitting in 1980 to protest the executions of opponents of Libyan leader Moammar Qadhafi.

Tripoli has denied any involvement and claims the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency was behind the kidnapping. U.S. President Bill Clinton has written to Egypt to express his concern about the disappearance of Mr. Kikhia, whose wife and children are U.S. citizens. Mr. Kikhia reportedly intended to move to the United States.

Monday's indoor rally was attended by prominent Jordanian personalities, including Parliament Speaker Taher Masri.

Leila Sharaf, a member of the Senate, said that Mr. Kikhia's disappearance was a "serious violation of human rights and threatens the freedom of expression for 250 million people in the Arab World."



His Majesty King Hussein Monday holds talks with Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa in a meeting attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan (Petra photo)

## Peres, Abbas meet in Cairo; no sign of a breakthrough

CAIRO (Agencies) — Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel reopened peace talks Monday, with both sides led by major figures in the secret meetings earlier this year that made the first breakthrough between the decades-old enemies.

Palestinian and Israeli officials expressed hope that this round would reach agreement for Israel's army to begin pulling out of the Gaza Strip and Jericho, two weeks after a deadline for starting the withdrawal.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Mousa met separately with Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Palestinian negotiator Mahmoud Abbas before the two were joined by other delegates for informal talks.

Their meeting lasted just over one hour and was followed by a dinner hosted by Mr. Mousa.

Neither Mr. Peres nor Mr. Abbas would give details. "There is nothing yet," Mr. Abbas said.

Palestinian negotiator Nabil Shaath told reporters that Monday's talks were "preparations for the official meetings tomorrow."

Mr. Mousa, who met Sunday with PLO leader Yasser Arafat, said he was hopeful the two sides could reach agreement. "The gaps are not that



Shimon Peres



Mahmoud Abbas

far, and the agreement is possible," he said.

But Mr. Peres, who is heading the Israeli delegation to the talks here, said before arrival that he was bringing no new offers. His comment came amid reports the two sides still differ on the key issue of how much land Israel will cede around Jericho.

Mr. Peres told reporters in Cairo that he wanted to get beyond vociferous arguments over issues like Jericho and push for establishing Palestinian autonomy under the Israeli-PLO accord signed in September.

"The purpose is to conduct very serious negotiations, re-

membering there are two sides to the story," Mr. Peres said. "We're not ignoring that, and wishing the Palestinians real success."

Mr. Peres said Israel wanted to give the Palestinians "the most we can in the way of dignity... so that they will be able to run their own life."

But in an interview published Monday in the Israeli daily Yediot Ahronot, he warned that Mr. Arafat was seeking concessions that Israel was not prepared to give.

"I very much hope that Arafat comes down from that tree he's climbed because I am not

(Continued on page 5)

## UNIFIL and Oslo protest Israeli killing of Norwegian

NAQOURA, Lebanon (Agencies) — The United Nations and Norway protested to Israel Monday over the killing of a Norwegian U.N. peacekeeper by an Israeli tankfire in southern Lebanon.

A spokesman for the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) said the force delivered a strong protest over Sunday's killing to an Israeli liaison officer in a meeting on the Lebanese-Israeli border.

"The Israeli officer expressed his regret and explained that the incident was the result of unauthorised firing" by a tank commander in the eastern sector of Israel's self-declared "security zone," Timor Goksel said.

The Norwegian foreign ministry also lodged an official protest, while Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin contacted Oslo to convey his regrets.

Another Norwegian soldier was wounded in the incident. He was taken to hospital in the northern Israeli town of Haifa, where his condition was reported to be "serious, but not life-threatening."

Norway's Deputy Foreign Minister Jan Egeland said the peacekeepers were on patrol when the tank opened fire. "For us this is quite incomprehensible. We deeply regret a Norwegian life has been lost," he said.

Goksel said the tank was in the Blat region where Norwegian peacekeepers were deployed. Military sources in Israel said a patrol shelled the

region after spotting suspicious figures, whom they mistook for anti-Israeli guerrillas.

Before the killing, UNIFIL had already protested to Israeli forces on Sunday over the "careless firing onto an Irish position in the central sector of the security zone," the spokesman added.

A total of 195 UNIFIL soldiers have been killed in South Lebanon, including 20 Norwegian troops, since the 5,200-strong peacekeeping force was deployed in South Lebanon in 1978.

In a separate incident, a 65-year-old woman was killed by Israeli shelling on Braachit village in the south Monday, security sources said.

Lebanon security sources inside the zone said eight UNIFIL soldiers were in the patrol on the outskirts of Blat, which is inside the zone.

They said an Israeli tank in Aishiyeh, some three kilometres to the east, fired several rounds at the patrol. UNIFIL soldiers routinely patrol Blat but they rarely venture to its outskirts and usually inform the Israeli forces when they plan such patrols, the Lebanese sources said.

This was denied by Mr. Goksel, however. He said peacekeepers went on the same patrol almost every night.

Mr. Goksel said U.N. peacekeepers found traces of a tank shell loaded with steel darts. Norwegian peacekeepers went on alert in the area.

## Arafat visits Yemen as Hussein holds Riyadh talks

SANAA (Agencies) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat arrived Monday to brief Yemeni leadership on the peace talks that his aides were to resume with the Israelis in Egypt later in the day.

Yemen is a close supporter of the chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and still shelters some 2,000 of the PLO fighters that Mr. Arafat wants to move as policemen to Jericho and Gaza.

In arrival statements, Mr. Arafat, who came from Cairo where he held advance talks Sunday with the Egyptian hosts, said the "most important obstacle" sprang from Israel's interpretation of the Sept. 13 declaration of principles on Palestinian self-rule.

He listed the problems as the size of the Jericho area, continue over border crossing and the issue of East Jerusalem.

Mr. Arafat was also expected to pursue his efforts to arrange a reconciliation meeting between Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh and his vice president, Ali Salem Al beedh.

Mr. Beedh has kept away from the capital Sanaa since August because of differences over the pace of integration since he led his former South Yemen into merger with Mr. Saleh's North Yemen three years ago. (See page 2)

In neighbouring Saudi Arabia, whose leaders still distance themselves from Mr. Arafat, prominent Palestinian figure Faisal Hussein held talks on financial aid for the Palesti-

## Yemeni envoy briefs King on efforts to end crisis

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday received at the Royal Court in the presence of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Yemeni Deputy Prime Minister Mujahed Abu Shawrah who conveyed to the King a verbal message from the Yemeni leadership dealing with bilateral relations and the political situation in Yemen.

Mr. Abu Shawrah also conveyed to the King the greetings of Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh and Vice-President Ali Salem Al Beedh and their appreciation of the King's efforts to end a political crisis in Yemen. The Yemeni official also briefed King Hussein on the national dialogue and consultations taking place to end the crisis.

The King voiced satisfaction over the situation in Yemen and stressed Jordan's support for the Yemeni leadership and people.

The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, the King's Political Advisor Marwan Al Qasem, the King's Advisor Khaled Al Karaki and the Yemeni ambassador in Amman.

In Sanaa, the official news agency SABA quoted Mr. Beedh as saying he would meet President Saleh if the latter acted on 18 political demands. SABA quoted Mr. Beedh as telling a group of religious scholars late Sunday that he would accept their proposal for a meeting with Mr. Saleh if his condition was met (see page 2).

Mr. Saleh, who accepted the idea on Saturday, led North Yemen and Mr. Beedh led South Yemen before the two merged in 1990.

The president said recently he agreed to the 18 demands, made by Mr. Beedh's Yemen Socialist Party (YSP) over two months ago in a quarrel over the direction the new Yemen is taking.

nians in the West Bank.

Mr. Hussein met with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal.

A diplomatic source said the talks concentrated on "means of aiding the inhabitants of the occupied Arab territories who are the real strugglers" against the Israeli occupation.

The source, who spoke on condition he not be named, said Mr. Hussein was carrying a study on those needs. There was no elaboration.

The oil-rich Kingdom is the main benefactor of the Palestinians but has been channelling multimillion-dollar donations and assistance directly to the Palestinians after it turned its back on the PLO leadership when Mr. Arafat sided with Iraq during the Gulf crisis.

The kingdom, however, has pledged \$100 million to the international "funds amassed for the Palestinian entity in Gaza and Jericho."

Mr. Hussein arrived in Riyadh Sunday on his first visit to Saudi Arabia since the 1991 Gulf war.

In August, Mr. Hussein met Prince Faisal in Cairo to discuss the Saudi financial contribution to Palestinian autonomy.

Later Monday, Mr. Arafat met President Saleh to discuss problems delaying the implementation of Palestinian autonomy.

Mr. Saleh reiterated his country's support for the "cause of the Palestinian people," the official news agency SABA reported.



## Islamist hardliners get ahead in Kuwait

By William Maclean  
Reuters

KUWAIT — Kuwait's Islamic hardliners, brushing off liberal protests, are steadily expanding a campaign to turn the oil-producing emirate into a fully Islamic society.

Their softly-softly approach has been paying off in growing parliamentary support and extensive coverage of their demands and arguments in newspapers and magazines.

Kuwait's brand of Islamists are a far cry from the firebrand variety across the Gulf waters in Iran or their militant co-religionists in Algeria.

Islamic leaders said in interviews they had no wish to overthrow the existing order, only to make it more Islamic.

"Many of us were educated in the West and we want to continue to benefit from Western science and technology. We know the West helped us a lot in liberating our country (from Iraqi occupation)," Parliament Member Ahmad Baqer told Reuters.

"But we are Muslims and we need to say that out loud."

Few go so far as Muslim cleric Sheikh Abdul Aziz Al-Hoda, who says low oil prices and chronic bad debt problems are divine punishment for Kuwait's failure to implement full Islamic law.

But all say a post-Gulf war upsurge in crime and juvenile delinquency will best be cured by stricter adherence to Islam.

Mr. Baqer is a member of the *Salaf* group — its name means a return to the path of the forefathers — which emerged in the 1970s when many Arabs and Muslims turned to religion after the shattering Arab defeat by Israel in the 1967 war.

Since the Gulf crisis Islamists have built on their active role during Iraq's occupation. Mosques were centres of civilian resistance and Islamists helped distribute food and medicine.

Activists say this helped counter the influence of Western culture over Kuwaitis impressed with the role the West played in liberating their country.

Last month the government said it was studying ways to jam signals from non-Arab foreign satellite television channels that showed indecent programmes offensive to Kuwaitis.

Compared to many Gulf states Kuwait is a pluralist, open society with a range of political beliefs and social practices.

Men and women who are unrelated rarely mix and many forms of entertainment are banned. Alcohol, even non-alcoholic beer, is forbidden. Discotheques, once tolerated, closed in the 1980s.

But a lively parliamentary tradition and an outspoken press fuel a busy intellectual life. Substantial numbers of women wear Western dress and work in business, government and even the army, countering the stereotype of the protected Muslim wife.

There has been no proposal to restrict the practice of other faiths. Freedom of religion is enshrined in the constitution. However, 39 of parliament's 50 elected deputies have signed a motion advocating a change in the constitution to make Islam the sole source of law. No date has been set for debate.

Article two of the constitution says Islam is "a main" — thus not the only — source of legislation. Any constitutional change is subject to the emir's approval.

Liberals accuse the Islamists of having no clear idea of the political, economic and legal consequences of changing article two and say it would divert attention from more pressing issues such as economic reconstruction following the Iraqi occupation.

"Nothing dramatic will happen. An Islamic society must be implemented here step by step," countered Islamist MP Khalid Al Adwa, commenting on the results of changing article two.

"A new article two will have value as a statement," echoed Mr. Baqer. "But in fact it will change almost nothing."

Liberals also dislike a separate plan by five Islamist MPs for creation of an authority to promote good and prohibit evil.

They see the proposal, despite Islamist denials, as a first step that would encourage fundamentalists to police residents' daily behaviour as is done in Saudi Arabia and Iran.

Asked if he saw Kuwait adopting the even stricter social norms of neighbour Saudi Arabia, Mr. Adwa said: "We cannot make a comparison with Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. Saudi Arabia (birthplace of Islam) has a unique experience in the Islamic field which Kuwait accepts and respects."

"We are going to follow unique procedures so that Kuwaitis will not feel persecuted."



CONFRONTATION: Jewish settlers belonging to the extremist Kach party shoot at peace activist Abbie Nathan as he is tried to persuade them against entering Gaza City on Sunday. The Kach activists were planning to enter Gaza with their guns to challenge Palestinians, but Israeli soldiers prevented them from entering (AFP photo)

Kach activists were planning to enter Gaza with their guns to challenge Palestinians, but Israeli soldiers prevented them from entering (AFP photo)

## S. Arabia moves towards reform with new council

By Ashraf Fouad  
Reuters

DUBAI — King Fahd is due to convene Saudi Arabia's appointed Shura (consultative) council this week in the kingdom's first major step towards political reform.

Official sources and Western diplomats in Riyadh said the king was expected to hold the first session of the 60-member body, the country's first representative assembly in almost 60 years, within the next few days.

Senior members of the Saudi royal family traditionally control the kingdom's administration and its vast oil wealth. Huge foreign assets and military and internal security forces.

Although rules governing the new council fall short of Western concepts of democracy, diplomats in Riyadh said it represented a big move towards long-promised changes.

"It is an important first step and the thing to do is to focus on this progressive move," one Western diplomat told Reuters by telephone from Riyadh.

"Every country has its own version of democracy and no one has the 'perfect' formula," King Fahd appointed the Shura council in August. A month later he named members of regional assemblies in a further sign that ordinary Saudis will for the first time have a say in running their country's affairs.

"We (Riyadh's Western allies) look favourably on this council and are in favour of this political liberalisation," the diplomat said.

Diplomats expected that the regional assemblies, which like the Shura do not include senior members of the royal family, would hold their first meetings after the king opened the first Shura session.

They said the men named to the Shura council and the assemblies represented the different sectors of the Saudi society and the appointments were well received by the people.

The Shura, which will meet in public, includes five members of the religious establishment, 30 holders of doctorates, representatives from the Muslim Shite minority, active and retired military officers and senior government officials.

Former Justice Minister Sheikh Mohammad Ben Ibrahim Ben Jubair will chair the council, whose members will receive a basic monthly salary of about \$5,300.

Decrees setting up the council, which has a four-year term, said no government department had authority over it and stressed that members were not allowed "to take any papers, systems or documents related to the council's work outside the council."

Diplomats said the deployment of hundreds of thousands of U.S. and other non-Muslim soldiers in the conservative kingdom, home to Islam's holiest shrines, during the 1990-91 Gulf crisis ended Saudi Arabia's isolation and accelerated reforms which were first promised 21 years ago.

## Kuwait eyes Russian weapons

KUWAIT (Agencies) — Kuwait is considering buying weapons from Russia, the emirate's defence minister says.

Russia and Kuwait signed a defence pact in November aimed at improving Kuwait's defences. The accord provides for possible arms sales, joint exercises and military training.

"Kuwait is regarding those offers with interest after signing the security agreement between the two countries," Al Anba Arabic newspaper on Monday quoted Defence Minister Sheikh Ali Sabah Al-Salem Al Sabah as saying.

Sheikh Ali said a Russian delegation was expected to visit Kuwait soon to discuss the offers which involve weapons for Kuwait's infantry, navy and air forces.

Kuwait's parliament in August voted to reject a recommendation from its financial committee to approve a 1992 decree law providing for 3.5 billion dinars (\$11.5 billion) in extraordinary military spending until 2004.

Sheikh Ali said that of the total amount, up to 1.2 billion dinars (\$3.9 billion) had either been spent or committed.

Much of the spending has been incurred in deals concluded under a defence pact signed with the United States shortly after Kuwait's liberation from Iraqi occupation in 1991.

Aerospatiale to invest \$5m

The French company Aerospatiale has decided to invest some \$5 million in Kuwait as part of an arms contract it signed with the authorities here, an Aerospatiale representative said.

Jean-Dominique Ribault, quoted by Kuwaiti newspaper Sunday, said the sum represented 30 per cent of the 100-million-franc (\$17-million) contract.

The Kuwaiti government, like other Gulf Arab states, has established an "offset" programme for ploughing back into the emirate part of the profits of military contracts signed with foreign companies.

The investment programme, the first of its kind in Kuwait, covers economic assistance, mainly in the medical field, Mr. Ribault said.

Aerospatiale is a major military supplier of the Kuwaiti armed forces, which have already bought Gazelle, Puma and Super Puma helicopters from the company.

Mr. Ribault said new deals were being worked out with Kuwait, but gave no further details.

## Beedh agrees to meet Saleh to resolve political crisis

ADEN, Yemen (Agencies) — Yemeni Vice President Ali Salem Al Beedh has agreed to meet the country's head of state, Ali Abdullah Saleh, to resolve a crisis over demands for decentralisation of the recently united country.

After a meeting Sunday with a religious delegation attempting to mediate between the two men, Mr. Beedh said he was ready for a meeting if the president agreed to demands to give greater autonomy to the two halves of the country.

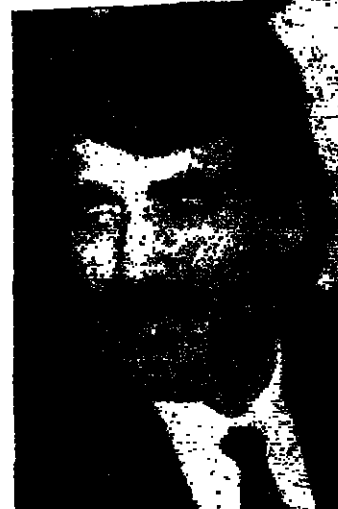
Mr. Saleh offered Saturday to meet Mr. Beedh on Jan. 9 after a meeting with Muslim theology doctors who proposed a mosque in Aden, 130 kilometres south of Sanaa, as the venue.

The vice president, from the former South Yemen, has broken links with Mr. Saleh, of the former North Yemen, since August. The country was united in May 1990.

Mr. Beedh's Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP) is also demanding the arrest and trial of those responsible for acts of political violence in the country over the last few years as well as the closure of urban military camps.

President Saleh said in comments published Sunday that he had assured the United States was committed to the unity of Yemen.

Mr. Saleh told the Arabic daily Al-Dustour of Jordan he had met with American envoys several times and got the message that Washington was "committed to Yemeni unity and wants a peaceful solution to the crisis."



Ali Salem Al Beedh



Ali Abdullah Saleh

The newspaper quoted Mr. Saleh as voicing hope his rift with Mr. Beedh could be resolved soon.

"We are trying our best, with all political forces and partners, to end the crisis," he told Al-Dustour.

"We hope that the new year will be a year of security and that we could eliminate the last traces of a divided Yemen," said Mr. Saleh.

Dispute with S. Arabia

Mr. Saleh also said Yemen plans to speed up efforts to resolve a border dispute with Saudi Arabia.

"Today the political leadership took a decision to direct the government to act speedily to resolve the border issue in the framework that guarantees the rights of the two brotherly neighbours," Mr. Saleh said.

"The decision was taken ... and I asked for speeding up

resolving the border issue with the Saudi neighbour," he added.

Mr. Saleh said a decision had been taken to upgrade to ministerial level talks with the Saudis to resolve the dispute over the demarcation of Yemen's northern border. Until now technical committees have tackled the issue.

There is a large stretch of undemarcated desert border between Yemen and Saudi Arabia and an agreement over the three disputed areas of Najran, Jizan and Azir, which Yemen claims, expired last year and has not been renewed.

Yemen's ties with its former Arab Gulf donors worsened after it was seen as backing Iraq in the 1990-91 Gulf crisis. Around a million Yemenis were expelled from Saudi Arabia.

## Fighting, farming as fickle as the weather in Somalia

By Mark Fritz  
The Associated Press

SARMANDER — The world gave Sarmander farm tools, sorghum seeds, expert advice and an army to keep the peace, but that wasn't enough. Nobody gave it rain, so the harvest failed and Sarmander is hungry again.

Nearby Garmegel had a decent harvest. The sorghum was packed into underground leaders to last through the dry season. But a neighbouring clan looted the village two weeks ago, emptying the earthen cellars of four months of food.

Garmegel is now a collection of smashed thatched huts shaded by trees on a gentle hill overlooking a rare thing in this part of Somalia: A reservoir. The people have fled to other towns, including Sarmander, which is flat, parched and increasingly overcrowded.

Both villages are in Somalia's sorghum basket, the heartland of the staple grain that often is ground and mixed with water to form a paste called *sor*.

The villages are within 60 kilometres of Baidoa, the resuscitated urban centre the United Nations likes to show as a symbol of its effort to end starvation in Somalia and restore a semblance of law and order.

Sarmander and Garmegel, more typical of this country of itinerant farmers, are among the scores of villages around Baidoa that have failed to get back on their feet despite an unprecedented relief effort.

Humanitarian groups say it

may be necessary to resume distributions of free food, suspended in July, so farm families can survive until the next rainy season in April.

But Sarmander, Garmegel and other flyspeck villages have two things no one can change: The dry, caramel coloured soil that yields enough food only when the rains come twice yearly, and the complex interclan relationships that are as unpredictable as the weather.

Somalia has two growing seasons: The *gu*, which begins with the rains in April and ends with an August harvest, and the *deyr*, running from September to late December.

Both were catastrophes in Sarmander, which means "long tree." People are eating cobs leaves, weeds, actually — and chopping down those long trees so they can sell wood for food in bustling Baidoa.

The failed harvest was a crushing disappointment to Farey Madey, who was born here 36 years ago.

Mrs. Madey, her husband and seven children were farming their plot when the civil war against dictator Mohammad Siad Barre spilled into the village.

After being driven from Mogadishu, the capital, Mr. Siad Barre set up headquarters in Baidoa. His soldiers raided nearby villages, looting food stores and shooting the occupants.

Village chief Haji Hussein Adam said 330 homes were burned down. Sarmander once had 5,000 families, he said; now there are fewer than 1,500.

The people fled in three migrations and many died of starvation en route, including Mrs. Madey's husband and three of her children. She made it to Wajid, 100 kilometres away, where humanitarian agencies had set up a feeding centre.

She returned for the second growing season four months ago. The Irish aid group Concern gave her tools, seeds, and advice.

"I planted, but nothing grew," she said.

"All the farms are like this," said Mohammad Osman Bul Bul, a Somali agronomist for Concern. "People are eating leaves now."

Mr. Bul Bul tries to persuade Somalis to plant little gardens of carrots, cabbages and peppers to get through bad sorghum harvests. He teaches them to plant their seeds in rows rather than haphazardly, so crops can be tended more efficiently and produce greater yields.

He wants farmers to turn the soil with plows pulled by livestock, rather than by hand, and to plow deeply so the overused topsoil will be enriched.

But in Sarmander, he is up against nine generations of farming custom.

"They only believe what they learned from their grandfathers," Mr. Bul Bul said.

Sarmander is now in the early days of a dry season that will last until April. The major humanitarian groups in the Baidoa sorghum region held an emergency meeting in mid-December to discuss whether to resume giving food to places like Sarmander.

## Violence cost Egypt \$1.3b in revenue

CAIRO (Agencies) — Militant violence cost Egypt almost \$1.3 billion in lost revenue from tourism this year, Tourism Minister Mamdouh Al-Baltagi said Sunday.

Revenue from one of Egypt's biggest foreign currency earners dropped 42.5 per cent from the \$3 billion received in 1992, Mr. Baltagi told parliament.

He also said that 21.9 per cent fewer tourists visited Egypt between January and October 1993, compared to the same period last year, while the number of hotel bookings dropped 31.7 per cent.

Seven foreign tourists have died in Egypt since militants stepped up a violent campaign against President Hosni Mubarak's secular government in 1992.

On Sunday, militants shot dead four policemen in southern Egypt, bringing December's police death toll to 18 —

the highest since militants began fighting to overthrow the state in 1992.

Guns ambushed and killed the policemen as they were on their way to work in Al Qusiya, a militant stronghold 300 kilometres south of Cairo, security sources said. A civilian also died in the shooting.

The militant movement Al Gamaa Al Islamiyah (Islamic Group) has claimed responsibility for two of December's police deaths and is believed to be behind the others, most of them involving low-ranking conscripts easily targeted on their way to or from work.

A police brigadier, captain and lieutenant and two conscripts were killed last Sunday in the worst shootout with militants in the southern province of Assiut since March. Three militants died on that day.

All but two of the policemen killed this month have fallen in Assiut, where the Gamaa

launched its campaign in 1992 to overthrow the government and establish a strict Islamic state by targeting security personnel, Christians and foreign tourists.

The attacks on tourists have subsided, having devastated the Egyptian tourist industry, but those on policemen continue to rise.

December has been a bloody month for militants too, 15 of whom died — but of those, nine were hanged after military trials. Only six died in shootouts with police.

Most of the nine, who were sentenced to death in two separate military trials in October for murder and conspiracy to overthrow the government, were members of Jihad (holy struggle), the other main militant movement in Egypt.

Their executions bring the number of militants executed this year to 29, the highest number sent to their deaths for

political crimes in Egypt in any year this century.

Human rights groups have condemned the hangings as arbitrary and summary, and say they only serve to widen the circle of violence currently gripping Egypt.

The Egyptian Organisation for Human Rights on Sunday condemned militants groups, which it said were responsible for most deaths in Egypt this year.

In a statement, the group also decried the "acts of illegal violence practiced by the state," including recurring detentions, torture, military trials and mass death sentences.

"These do not contribute to ending 'violent' acts or terrorism, in as much as they cause more harm to the situation of human rights in our country," which has led to this vicious circle of violence and counter-violence," the statement added.

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDER

### JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

### PROGRAMME TWO

17:30 Le Monde Sous Marin  
18:30 Boomerang  
19:00 News in French  
19:15 Varieties  
19:30 News in Hebrew  
20:00 News in Arabic  
21:30 Night Court  
21:10 "Act Of War"  
22:00 News in English  
22:30 Feature film: "The Wilderness Family"

### PRAYER TIMES

05:07 Fajr  
06:29 Sunrise (Basmala) Dada  
11:37 Dhuhur  
14:21 Asr  
16:44 Maghrib  
18:00 Isha

### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swellish, Tel. 810740  
Assumption of God Church, Tel. 632785  
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440

### De In Sella Church Tel. 661757

Terrace Church Tel. 622366  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541  
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543  
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331  
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261  
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751  
Armenian International Church Tel. 625266  
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624328  
German-speaking Evangelical Church Tel. 694195  
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932  
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691

### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

There will be a rise in temperatures with clouds appearing at low altitudes. Winds will be variable occasionally becoming westerly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Amman Min/Max temp. 8/21  
Aqaba 13/27

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

#### NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:  
Dr. Bassim Qaddumi 648633  
Dr. Fakhri Tayeh 883680  
Dr. Abdul Wahab Awad 846070  
Dr. Yousef Al Faqih 756988  
Firas pharmacy 661912  
Ferdous pharmacy 778336  
Al Asena pharmacy 670355  
Nairosh pharmacy 623672  
Yacoub pharmacy 649495  
Shmiciani pharmacy 637660  
Nairosh pharmacy 623672  
Najib pharmacy 847632

#### IRBID:

Dr. Mohammad Al Za'bi (—)  
Alquds pharmacy (—)

### Deserts

5/24  
Jordan Valley 11/27

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 20, Aqaba 24. Humidity readings: Amman 38 per cent, Aqaba 37 per cent.

### EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111  
Civil Defence Department 661111  
Civil Defence Immediate 630341  
Races 199  
Civil Defence Emergency 199  
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777  
Fire Brigade 891228  
Blood Bank 775121  
Highway Police 843402  
Traffic Police 896390  
Public Security Department 630321  
Hotel Complaints 605800  
Price Complaints 661176  
Water and Sewerage 897467  
Complaints 897467  
Amman Municipality 787111  
Complaints 121  
Overseas Calls 010230  
Central Amman Telephone 623101  
Repairs 601101  
Abdali Telephone Repairs 721111  
Jordan Television 771111  
Radio Jordan 771111  
Water Authority 680100

### ZARQA:

Dr. Ahmad Al Tariq 900806  
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

### HOSPITALS

AMMAN:  
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32  
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn. 642816  
Al-Khazim Maternity, J. Amn. 642412  
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362  
Malbas, J. Amman 636140  
Palestine, Shmiciani 6641714  
Shmiciani Hospital 689131  
University Hospital 845845  
Al-Mustashfi Hospital 6072779  
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/77  
Al-Ahli, Abdali 6641646  
Isfahan, Al-Mustashfi 77101/3  
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 77511/26  
Army, Marfa 891611/15  
Queen Alia Hospital 686100  
Amal Hospital 674155  
ZARQA:  
Zarga Govt. Hospital 09/983323  
Zarga National Hospital 09/980560  
Ibn Sina Hospital 09/980732  
Al-Hikma Modern Hospital 09/980990  
IBRAHIM:  
Princess-Basma Hospital 02/275535  
Greek Catholic Hospital 07/77774

### Jordan Electricity Authority

815615  
Electric Power 636381  
Company 08-53200  
RJ Flight Information 08-53200  
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

### FOR THE TRAVELLER

#### QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

#### ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)  
04:00 Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)  
07:35 Damascus (RJ)  
07:45 Dhahran (RJ)  
09:10 Muscat, Abu Dhabi (RJ)  
09:25 Karachi, Dubai (RJ)  
09:50 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)  
10:25 London (RJ)  
10:35 Frankfurt (RJ)  
10:45 Cairo (RJ)  
17:30 Chicago, Amsterdam (RJ)  
19:00 (add.) Rome (RJ)

### Other Flights (Terminal 2)

04:20 Vienna (OS)  
16:45 Rome (AZ)  
18:05 Paris, Beirut (AF)  
19:45 Beirut (ME)  
20:00 Aden (IV)  
06:30 Bucharest (RO)  
01:15 Amsterdam, Damascus (KL)

#### DEPARTURES

##### Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal



## Crown Prince urges measures to ensure safety for people, property

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Monday underlined the importance of the coming conference on public safety which will discuss prospects for working out a comprehensive programme to ensure safety of Jordanians and their property.

Success of such a conference would require good preparation, said the Prince during a visit to the Civil Defence Department (CDD) where he met with the CDD Director Afif Al Ghoul, senior officers as well as CDD officers who took part in extinguishing the recent fire at the Safeway stores in Amman. The Crown Prince said it is hoped that the coming conference would result in a comprehensive programme related

to public safety which would enable better handling of emergency cases.

As Jordan seeks to become an industrial centre at the regional level, the Prince said, serious efforts should be exerted to ensure industrial safety.

In reviewing the CDD needs, the Crown Prince said that compared to the needs of the civil defence in other countries, there must be a way to ensure sufficient funds, equipment and its maintenance and therefore companies and industries ought to take the initiative to meet the CDD requirements.

He also called on the CDD to open centres in various parts of the Kingdom and said it was

important for the department to establish close cooperation with various businesses in Jordan.

Discussion during the Prince's visit focused on the way the civil defence officers performed during the fire at Safeway. The fire has resulted in 264 people being treated in hospitals due to suffocation.

Also Monday, the Crown Prince visited the Army Headquarters where he discussed with the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Abdul Hafez Marai and his assistants issues of importance to the Armed Forces.

Special attention focused on the contribution of the Armed Forces towards improving the national economy.

## Economic restructuring aims at attaining a 6 per cent growth rate

AMMAN (Petra) — Finance Minister Sami Gammoh said Monday that the economic restructuring programme agreed upon with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) was aimed at achieving an annual growth at the rate of six per cent in the first year of an eight-year period envisaged by the programme.

Addressing a meeting by a number of ministers and parliament members, Mr. Gammoh said that the programme also aims at reducing the volume of aid, gradually reducing the margin of deficit in the fiscal budget and achieving a 23 per cent increase of the domestic product.

The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, Minister of Planning Ziyad Fariz, Dr. Rima Khalaf the Minister of Industry and Trade and the Central Bank of Jordan CBJ Governor Mohammad Al Nabulsi as well as members of the lower House of Parliament and representatives of the private sectors.

The meeting was chaired by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali.

In reviewing the benefits Jordan is bound to achieve by the end of the programme, in 1997, the minister said that the programme will enable the Kingdom to reschedule its external debts at the Paris and the London clubs which, upon recommendation from the World Bank and the IMF,

will allow Jordan to obtain additional loans.

The minister noted that failure to implement the programme would result in negative consequences for the national economy, like the prospects to obtain further loans and the rescheduling loans, which would also lead to Jordan's inability to get sufficient foreign currency to pay for imports.

The minister said that commitment to the implementation of the programme would require the gradual repayment of the foreign debts, ending them by the end of 1997.

CBJ Governor Mohammad Saad Nabulsi stressed the importance of views among the concerned parties, including the Parliament, over the sales tax for the sake of achieving consensus on this question and other problems that impede the attainment of a stronger economy.

He noted that one of the issues facing the economy is the diminished amounts of money, transfers from the expatriates living and working in the Gulf, which has acted negatively on the Jordanian economy.

Noting that Jordan attained very good results by implementing the economic reform programme in the first year, the CBJ governor said the programme was slowed down by the 1990 Gulf crisis, but better results were expected.

Referring to this year's gains, the CBJ governor said that due to strict adherence to the agreement, Jordan achieved an 11.6 per cent growth.

The sales tax, said Dr. Nabulsi, was bound to create additional funds to cover the expansion in ensuring sufficient funds to cover the increase in public expenditure, to reduce the margin of deficit and make the country achieve sufficiency.

Also addressing the meeting was Dr. Rima Khalaf Minister of Industry and Trade, who said that an increase in the money invested in Jordan is bound to increase the level of exports.

She said that the government is currently opening the door wide before investors by providing incentives, simplifying formalities for investors and providing exemptions from the income tax to encourage investments.

Parliament Speaker Taher Al Masri, who attended the meeting, demanded more meetings to give sufficient time for the legislators to fully realise the benefits of the economic programme for Jordan.

Mohammad Daudieh, deputy to Farah, criticised the application of the sales tax as bound to further deteriorate the present different circumstances and increase poverty.

He said that the sales tax would widen the gap between the rich and the poor.

## Decentralisation is important for development

MAEEN (Petra) — Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Ahmad Al Aqaleh Monday underlined the importance of local administrations in the development process.

In an opening address at a seminar on local administration in Amman, Balqa and Zarqa held at Ashtar Hotel in Maean, Mr. Aqaleh said it was difficult to achieve a comprehensive development without giving local administrations a key role and stressed that local administrations were the product of a decentralisation process.

He referred to the heavy

burdens shouldered by heads of local administrations, saying mayors are always required to strike a balance demands and available resources.

Another address was delivered by Madaba District Governor Hisham Al Waked who stressed the importance of such seminars and emphasised their role providing mayors with information on developing and improving the performance of municipalities.

Mr. Waked criticised the current law on municipalities and said it needs to be updated to conform with the requirements of the present time.

Director of the Institute of Public Administration's Studies and Consultations Department Awad Al Halasa said, in his address that the seminar was the fruit of cooperation between the institute, the ministry and the Cities and Villages Development Bank.

The institute, Dr. Halasa said, has planned to hold several seminars for municipal councils in 1994. These seminars will focus on new administrative concepts, he explained.

The two-day seminar aims at acquainting the participants with basic information on the role of the municipal councils in the development process.

## Government sets up committee to study private sector demands regarding sales tax

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The government Monday set up a committee to study specific demands of the business community related to the planned introduction of a sales tax to replace the consumption tax in view of the opposition to the levy expressed by the private sector.

The decision was taken by the Economic Consultative Committee during a meeting chaired by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali following a briefing by Finance Minister Sami Gammoh on his contacts with the business community.

The new panel will include representatives of the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Industry and Trade, the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Industry and Commerce and the general manager of the Association of Banks in Jordan, Dr. Abdullah Malki, representing the services sector.

In essence, the committee will not be looking into the pros and cons of introducing the tax since it is inevitable under the terms of the economic restructuring programme agreed with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

In fact, officials point out, Jordan has already missed several deadlines to introduce the sales tax and there cannot be any further delay since the IMF has set a final deadline of February 1994 for the levy to go into effect.

They said that there has been enough debate on the subject and any going back to discussing the advantages and disadvantages of the sales tax would only lead to a protracted process while there cannot be any escape from introducing the law as stipulated by the IMF.

In order to cut down the process, the Economic Consultative Committee decided Monday that the newly set up panel would only study certain specific demands from the private sector.

The first demand is that the sales tax be charged on imports on the actual landed cost without including the customs duties. This demand came from importers.

The second demand, common both to the importers and the industrial sector, is that the second stage of the tax — covering the services sector and an eventual introduction of a value added tax — be implemented under a separate law rather than the present draft automatically clearing the way under a deci-

sion by the government.

Another demand is that the government should not have a free hand in determining the rate of the sales tax. In its present form, the draft law empowers the government to increase or decrease the rate at its discretion.

Mr. Gammoh undertook during Monday's meeting that a ceiling of 20 per cent would be as the highest rate for the levy. This rate is expected to be applicable to goods classified as luxury products.

Mr. Gammoh briefed the Economic Consultative Committee on the outcome of a meeting he held with businessmen at the Chamber of Industry last week where the proposed tax came under heavy criticism.

Mr. Gammoh said the sales tax would not lead to any rise in prices during the first year since it would only be replacing a consumption tax which was already in force since 1992.

He also explained that the rates of customs duties and income tax would be brought down simultaneously with the introduction of the sales tax, and as such the levy should go into force immediately to make up for the shortfalls in customs and income tax revenues.

Among the items exempt from the sales tax would be unprocessed agricultural produce and natural resources and live stock, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

Officials have said that basic food items, educational material and medicines would also be exempt from the levy.

According to the minister, the sales tax is part of a much needed reform in Jordan's overall taxation system and is not different from similar levies in force in more than 85 countries.

The sales tax was also one of the themes that were dealt with during a meeting later on Monday where Mr. Gammoh, Minister of Industry and Trade Rima Khalaf and Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Governor Mohammad Saad Al Nabulsi briefed members of the Lower House of Parliament on the general budget for 1994 and the overall economic and monetary situation and policies of the government.

While Mr. Gammoh and Dr. Nabulsi presented an overview of the objectives of the present economic policies and the programme prescribed by the IMF, Dr. Khalaf talked about Jordan's application to join the General

Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

Dr. Khalaf said that applying to join GATT did not mean that Jordan would automatically become a member of the agreement.

On the one hand, she said, while other governments would reduce or eliminate customs duties and remove other trade barriers, if any, against Jordanian products, the Kingdom was duty-bound to offer similar treatment to products coming in from other countries.

She said this was an area where Jordan intended to negotiate with GATT members with a view to ensuring protection for Jordanian industries wherever possible.

It cannot be ruled out that Jordan could not reach acceptable agreements with other GATT members, Dr. Khalaf said. But, in general, she said Jordan would like to join GATT and seek agreements favourable to the Kingdom.

Economic experts note that Israel, a long-term member of GATT, had managed, to secure many agreements that clearly protect its industry and there is no reason why Jordan should not reach similar accords with GATT members.

## Imports via Aqaba will not be affected—Iraqi officials

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Iraq on Monday assured Jordan that the reopening of the port of Umm Qasr in the Gulf would not affect the flow of Iraq-bound cargo through Aqaba, Jordanian officials and Iraqi sources said.

They said the assurance was given by Iraqi Transport Ministry Under-Secretary Khaled Samarah during a meeting with Transport Minister Adeb Halasa.

"Mr. Samarah told the Jordanian officials that the reopening of Umm Qasr would not have any impact on the flow of Iraq-bound goods coming through Aqaba," said an Iraqi source, whose account was confirmed by Jordanian officials.

"It is a political decision to continue to use Aqaba for the bulk of Iraqi imports," added the source.

The Iraqi official also noted that although Umm Qasr was reopened early last month after the port and access waterways were cleaned of war debris, only two vessels had called at the port since then and this rate of port calls was expected to continue for "some time."

The reopening of the Gulf port has raised serious concerns among the Jordanian port and transport sector, which fears that it would further lower the already depressed Iraqi imports through Aqaba.

The flow of Iraq-bound

goods through Aqaba has steadily declined since mid-1992 as the international enforcers of the sanctions tightened their inspection procedures of ships passing through the Red Sea towards Aqaba.

The inspection procedures led to costly delays for not only Iraqi importers but also Jordanians who found their actual landing costs of goods going up steadily.

After intense Jordanian lobbying in Washington and elsewhere, the U.S. has agreed to seriously consider measures that would alleviate the effects on the inspection procedures on Jordan-bound imports.

Ironically, as one shipping agent noted, "what is the use to us Jordanians of easing the measures now that Iraq-bound cargo could be heading for Umm Qasr rather than Aqaba?"

The one element that would ensure a minimum flow of Iraq-bound cargo through the Red Sea port is the fact that Umm Qasr does not have the facilities to handle large vessels, shipping sources said.

However, local shipping agents said the Iraqi government was offering incentives for Iraqi importers to use Umm Qasr for their imports and suggesting a series of measures to facilitate the use of the port, Iraq's only outlet to the Gulf.

The incentives include free bunkering and free handling as well as free fuel for ships

calling at the port for the first time and \$10 per tonne cash drawback (at the official exchange rate) for the importers.

The Chamber of Commerce in Baghdad has issued a circular to all its members outlining the facilities that importers could enjoy if they use Umm Qasr.

In addition, Iraqi newspapers have been calling on Iraqi merchants to use the Gulf port for their imports.

They said the government was also insisting that exporters use vessels of under 25,000-tonne capacity for exports to Iraq since only ships of that category could dock and unload at Umm Qasr.

In one case, the sources told the Jordan Times, the Australian wheat board was asked to change its plans to send 50,000 tonnes of wheat in one shipment aboard a vessel and use two 25,000-tonne ships and send them to Umm Qasr.

"It is not an isolated case," said a well-informed source.

"The Iraqi government has asked many other importers to explore the possibility of using 25,000-tonne ships to send goods to Iraq through Umm Qasr."

Sufian Mheisan, director of the Jordan Shipping Agents Association, said the association hoped that the government would offer incentives to Iraq-bound imports through Aqaba to make it attractive for Iraqi importers to continue to use the Red Sea port.

"We have to take into consideration the fact that 70 per cent of all cargo passing through Aqaba was intended for Iraq before the sanctions were imposed," Mr. Mheisan told the Jordan Times.

According to Mr. Mheisan, it is cheaper for exporters from Europe to send Iraq-bound cargo to Aqaba rather than Umm Qasr while Far Eastern exporters might find the Gulf port cheaper.

But considering that most of Iraq's imports in peacetime came from Europe, Aqaba could continue to play a prominent role if the Iraqi government wanted the port to do so.

Most owners of ships chartered to ferry Iraqi imports are reluctant to send their vessels to Umm Qasr because of the continuing fears of mines in the area. Furthermore, Aqaba has a reputation of high productivity in terms of loading and unloading — an operation which is hampered and slowed down at Umm Qasr because of technical reasons.

Mr. Samarah, who was on his way to Cairo to attend an Arab League transport ministers council meeting, also discussed the country's request to the U.N. sanctions committee for permission to operate a daily flight between Amman and Baghdad, they said.

Transport Ministry officials said Jordan had no objections to Iraqi Airways operating the flight, but noted that it was up to the U.N. to extend

the necessary exemption from the international sanctions imposed on Iraq following its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

Iraqi Airways planes are grounded in Amman, Tunis, Sudan and elsewhere.

The U.N. committee has consistently turned down earlier Iraqi requests for permission for Amman-Baghdad flights. At one point the committee also rejected an application for permission to service the grounded aircraft.

But, diplomatic sources say, there could be a change of mind this time, given the fact that Iraq has now accepted long-term monitoring of its weapons programme under the terms of the Gulf war ceasefire.

"Against the backdrop of the new mood at the U.N., it is quite possible that the committee may extend approval this time," said a diplomatic source. "That is, of course, subject to agreement by the U.S. and Britain, the two countries which are the staunchest opponents of any goodwill gesture towards Iraq."

Iraqi officials said their national airline had applied to the U.N. for permission for Amman-Baghdad flights on humanitarian grounds, mainly to help sick Iraqis who need treatment in Jordan or abroad and who cannot make the 1,000-kilometre overland journey.

There has been no official U.N. comment on the request yet.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Qatari foreign minister due in Amman

AMMAN (Petra) — Qatari Foreign Minister Sheikh Hamad Ben Jasssem Ben Jaber Al Thani is due in Amman Saturday on a two-day visit to Jordan. He will hold meetings with senior government officials covering bilateral relations and ways for bolstering Qatari-Jordanian cooperation.

### British MP arrives

AMMAN (Petra) — British parliament member Grevil Janner arrived in Amman via the King Hussein Bridge, on the River Jordan, on a several-day visit to Jordan. He is scheduled to hold meetings with Parliament members related to Jordanian-British relations and cooperation in parliamentary affairs. Mr. Janner is also planning to visit touristic attractions.

### Arabs to discuss cooperation in transportation

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan is to take part in an Arab ministers of transport meeting to open in Cairo Tuesday. Transport Minister Adib Halaseh will lead the Jordanian delegation to the meeting which is expected to discuss pan-Arab cooperation in the field of transport and follow up on the land transport and railway networks in Arab countries.

### All fruit and vegetables allowed for export

AMMAN (Petra) — The Agricultural Marketing Organisation (AMO) Monday announced that Jordanian exporters are allowed to export all types of vegetables and fruits. It also announced that the Jordan Company for Marketing Agricultural Products will import 3,000 tonnes of onions from now and until March 15, to meet the local demands. Furthermore, AMO announced that imports of mango from Sudan and Yemen is allowed, in implementation of agreements with the two countries. Import of chestnut from Gaza and India, until March 31, bananas, at the rate of 300 tonnes a month, until March 31 and citrus fruits and strawberries from Gaza will pass in transit only, in an effort to present any amounts of these products to leak to Jordanian markets.

### Jordan's Arab League representative appointed

CAIRO (Petra) — Jordanian Ambassador to Egypt Nayef Saoud Al Qadhi Monday met with Arab League Secretary General Ismat Abdul Meguid and handed him a letter from Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan appointing him Jordan's permanent representative at the Cairo-based Arab League. Mr. Qadhi reviewed with Dr. Meguid the Arab situation and obstacles facing the Middle East peace process. Mr. Qadhi outlined to Dr. Meguid efforts exerted by His Majesty King Hussein and the Jordanian government to bolster Arab solidarity and heal Arab rifts. Dr. Meguid lauded the King's efforts and said he would continue endeavours to enhance Arab relations.

### Jordan, Sudan discuss cooperation in TV

AMMAN (Petra) — Director General of the Jordanian Television Production Company Jawad Maraga Monday received Sudanese Minister of Planning Ali Taha who is currently visiting the Kingdom. The two discussed the prospect of producing joint Jordanian-Sudanese television programmes and training Sudanese personnel at the company. The minister, who was accompanied on the visit by Sudanese Ambassador to Amman Ali Numeiri, toured the company's studios to get familiarised with the work there.

### Senate meets

AMMAN (Petra) — The Upper House of Parliament meets Tuesday under the chairmanship of its Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi. The House will discuss decisions taken by its various committees.

### House to meet for debate on peace talks

AMMAN (Petra) — The Lower House of Parliament will meet Wednesday under the chairmanship of its Speaker Taher Al Masri to hear a statement prepared by the government on the Middle East peace talks, in response to a house request. The House will also hear the government's answers to several deputies' queries and demands.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

### EXHIBITIONS

- ★ The second exhibition of engineering books at the Jordan Engineers Association.
- ★ Exhibition on the 100th anniversary of the death of French novelist Guy De Maupassant at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of Iraqi books at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Art exhibition by artists Ibrahim Al Abdull and Abdul Hussein Tawfi at Alla Art Gallery.
- ★ Art exhibition by a number of Jordanian artists entitled "The Sixth Exhibition — Samples From The Contemporary Jordanian Art 93" at the Spanish Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition "Prints and Drawings of Fakhraddin Zaid" (1915-1991) until the 15th of January '94 at Darat al Funn of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation. Also showing the "Permanent" Exhibition. (Tel. 643251/2).

### CHRISTMAS BAZAARS

- ★ Christmas bazaar at the Amman International Auto Exhibition/Airport Road.

### FILM

- ★ Chinese film entitled "Horse On The Cinema Screen" at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation at 6:30 p.m.

### DRAMA

- ★ Drama for children in Arabic entitled "The Question" at Haya Cultural Centre at 5:00 p.m.

## Health, media officials should work together to provide services

By Rana Hussein  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The World Health Organisation's Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean Thursday ended here a four-day workshop and came up with important recommendations to improve the communication between the media and government departments and officials.

The participants stressed that the government should adopt new media and health policies and facilitate the media's obtaining data and information from officials regarding health issues.

Furthermore, participants in the workshop suggested that governments should provide banks of information, with data from the ministries of health, which would help the media and researchers. In addition, participants called on improving the media training centre at the Ministry of Information in Amman to help it become a regional centre.

The participants recommended using drama and

T.V. programmes to provide health education and present facts to the public in a simple way.

They requested that WHO conduct more workshops, increase the number of existing health programmes and media letters and improve communication skills in the region.

The workshop, which was held between Dec. 20-23, called on workers in the fields of media and health to work together, noting that the private and the public sectors have a duty to join hands and complement the work of each other in providing health services.

The four-day session discussed several important issues regarding health, malpractices, utilising the media to provide health-related information and protection from communicable diseases, mainly AIDS, which, according to the latest numbers, provided by the Ministry of Health on Dec. 1, count 95 cases in Jordan.



## Jordan Times

An independent Arab journal published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation  
Established 1975  
جريدة عربية مستقلة تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية

Chairman of the Board of Directors:  
MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Director General:  
MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:  
GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:

Jordan Press Foundation,  
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 696183

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.  
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the  
Jordan Times advertising department.

## The vanishing act can no longer be in play

**THE DISAPPEARANCE** of the former Libyan Foreign Minister Mansour Kikhia from his hotel room in Cairo on Dec. 10 is not the first incident involving an ordeal for an Arab opposition figure. The abduction of Moroccan opposition leader Mehdi Ben Baraka in Paris in 1965, his presumed murder, and the strain it caused to Moroccan-French relations are still fresh in many minds. A more recent disappearance involved the Lebanese Shi'ite leader, Imam Mousa Sadr who vanished during a visit to Libya in 1978. At the time of the Ben Baraka disappearance, the Moroccan authorities denied any connection to his abduction, but French investigations later implicated the North African country in the case. Libya still denies that it knows anything about the fate of Imam Sadr, but Shi'ite leaders in Lebanon still point their finger at Tripoli. Abduction and "liquidation" of political opponents has been always a method used by dictators all along history. It is not a new phenomenon.

The disappearance of Mr. Kikhia then can only be seen within this context. Political opponents are being gunned down frequently by the regimes in the Middle East and Latin America in particular but elsewhere as well. We do not know what Mr. Kikhia and his colleagues in the Libyan opposition did or are still doing in their opposition to the regime in Tripoli. It is politically stupid of course for Libya to "abduct" a dissident from the streets of Cairo, if it did. But first of all it is extremely inhumane to kidnap an old man from his wife and children at an age where human rights are being put on the top list of every country.

Yet, the plight of Mr. Kikhia and people like him represents only a fraction of the plight of opposition all over the Arab World. Thousands of political opponents languish in the prisons of different Arab regimes, some of them for more than three decades. Thousands were summarily executed. It is therefore extremely important for all those people who are concerned about human rights everywhere to help find out where Mr. Kikhia is and to release him immediately.

### ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

**SAWT AL SHAAB** daily commented on Crown Prince Hassan's visit to the Roman Catholic Church in Swiech to present his good wishes to the heads of the Christian communities in Jordan by underlying the equality among members of the Jordanian people. Noting that the visit was a true manifestation of tolerance observed in the Kingdom in the word and the spirit the paper said tolerance and openness are strictly observed by the Hashemite family towards various sects. The paper said that it is political pluralism and respect of human rights which characterise the actions of members of the Royal family. The paper noted that the Royal family does not differentiate between Muslims and Christians. Addressing the bishops at the meeting, Prince Hassan underlined the importance of maintaining common denominators and of Jordanians joining hands and acting collectively towards ensuring a better future for the nation.

A COLUMNIST in **Al Doustour** said Monday that despite the agreement among world leaders on ways to help achieve world peace, no one at the people's level tasted real peace. Taher Al Udwan expressed the view that real peace would never be attained as major powers adhere to their selfish and interests their desire to rule the world. Underlining the need for the achievement of peace and world stability, the writer stressed the benefits of peace to the Middle East region noting that peace would have special taste because the region has lacked peace and stability for decades. It seems, said the writer, that while the leaders continue to discuss peace the ordinary masses are genuinely oriented towards real peace. The writer expressed hope that the coming year would see the peoples' desire for genuine peace.

### The View from Fourth Circle

## Building on the gains of the recent past

IN VIEW of the enormous economic and political changes that characterise our country and the entire Middle East region these days, it is appropriate to step back from day-to-day events and take a broader view of both the challenges we face and the strategies we have devised to meet those challenges. We are assisted in this task by the issuance of this month of two valuable publications by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Progress of Nations and the State of the World's Children Report.

The wealth of statistical data in these two volumes allows us to note the progress that has been achieved in Jordan over the last few decades, to compare our performance against other countries in this region and throughout the world and to assess the strategy by which we address issues of maternal and child health and our overall approach to meeting basic human needs and improving the quality of life of Jordanians as a whole.

It would be a shame if the information in these two UNICEF publications were confined to specialists in maternal and child health issues, because the underlying issues of quality of life improvements and social, economic and political decision-making should be discussed throughout society and at all levels.

The statistical data is impressive. It shows that Jordan has continued to improve the health and education status of its children despite the powerful pressures of regional turbulence, economic constraints, population increase and a fragile resource base in terms of land and water. Among the most heartening statistics, I would mention the following:

— Jordan is tied with Kuwait at the top of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region in terms of child nutrition, with just six per cent of our children under the age of five suffering malnutrition.

— In the decade of the 1980s, we were one of 20 countries in the developing world that halved the child mortality rate under the age of five. Our under five mortality rate (U5MR) declined from 66 deaths per 1,000 live births in 1980 to 32 per 1,000 in 1991.

— Among all MENA countries, we rank third in USMR; only Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) enjoy lower under five mortality rates and they have far greater financial resources and smaller populations than we do.

— An impressive 92 per cent of Jordanian children reach at least the fifth grade of primary school, compared to a MENA

regional average of 81 per cent and a global average of 68 per cent.

— In the last 20 years (between 1970 and 1990) the female adult literacy rate in Jordan increased from 29 per cent to 70 per cent.

These are only a few of the most striking of many indicators that document our progress in human development, and all decision-makers, educators and journalists should read through these reports and ponder their implications for our future national development strategy. Jordan's achievements in human development and quality of life in the last decade are all the more noteworthy because they took place during a period of economic distress.

In the period 1980-1991, for example, the gross national product per capita in Jordan declined by an annual average of 1.7 per cent, and per capita income and the real purchasing power of the average family dropped sharply due to the devaluation of the dinar, imported inflation, rising unemployment and the increase in population. Despite these strong economic pressures, we continued to improve the quality of life of most Jordanians.

The situation now sees the economy picking up gradually after the shocks of the Gulf war and the launching of our economic adjustment programme in 1989. But the overall picture of our quality of life also reveals important new challenges that we have never faced before. The two most important ones, in my opinion, are the emergence of a marginalised underclass of chronically impoverished families and accelerating pressures on our natural resources, especially water and arable land.

We are challenged today to make a fundamental adjustment in the balance between public and private sector responsibilities. In the last half a century, quality of life gains have been achieved largely as a result of expansion of government services, such as health, education and employment. The nature of our new national needs is such that more government services cannot do the job on their own, even if the government had the necessary money, expertise and management knowhow (which it does not). For example, lowering the infant mortality rate, improving nutrition levels, or reducing the incidence of disability among children can only register substantial gains on the basis of increasing the knowledge and participation of families and local communities.

## Communitarians — a dent in the wall of liberalism

By Karen J. Winkler

Bill Clinton is sounding a lot like certain academics these days. In calling on Americans to pledge service and sacrifice in a "New Covenant" with their government, and in several of his proposed policies, the president often echoes a group of scholars who banded together in 1990 to proclaim a "communitarian" agenda.

Both the Clinton administration and the scholars stress the need to revive the moral ties that bind communities together. Both call for a new civic culture based less on individual rights and more on social responsibility. And both have proposed similar public policies: family leave, to give parents more time with their children; national service, to teach students civic duty; campaign reform, to purify politics. The resemblance is not accidental. (Family leave and national service have become law under the Clinton administration.)

Three years ago, Amitai Etzioni, a social scientist who is a university professor at George Washington University in Washington, and William A. Galston, a professor of public affairs at the University of Maryland (College Park), decided to take ideas that were percolating through various academic disciplines and draw them together in a new "communication network."

"We made a conscious decision to move ideas outside academe," Prof. Galston says. And now Mr. Etzioni adds: "We're struggling for the soul of the Clinton administration."

Their efforts raise questions about scholarly movements that go public:

— How do scholars bridge the gap between political theory and practice?

— Can they hold together a loose web of intellectual principles when they confront divisive social issues such as family values and crime on the streets?

— What do they lose by succeeding?

The communitarians have had some measure of success. In early 1991, they started a journal, *The Responsive Community*, to air communitarian ideas; later that year, they held a "teach-in" in Washington, where they issued a platform calling for strengthening families, schools and communities, and for civic participation in politics.

Al Gore (then a U.S. senator, now vice president) spoke at the teach-in: public figures such as Henry Cisneros (then a mayor, now U.S. secretary of Housing and Urban Development) and William D. Ruckelshaus signed the platform. So did well-known liberals such as John W. Gardner, founder of Common Cause, and conservatives such as Chester E. Finn, Jr., a former official of the U.S. Department of Education and now a senior scholar with the Edison Project. Feminist trailblazer Betty Friedan signed, as did a wide assortment

of academics, including socialist Robert N. Bellah, economist Albert O. Hirschman, political scientist Benjamin R. Barber and the president of the American University (Washington), Joseph P. Duffey (now director of the U.S. Information Agency).

Some of those names, besides those of Mr. Gore, Mr. Cisneros and Mr. Duffey, are now turning up in the Clinton administration. Prof. Galston is serving as deputy assistant to the president for domestic policy.

Scholarly trends nudged communitarians towards politics.

The movement started in political theory in the 1970s, on the coattails of a shift in academic philosophy away from methodological arguments to a discussion of normative principles. Communitarianism has since tapped into a revival of interest in the pragmatism of John Dewey, who stressed participatory democracy and whom many communitarians now claim as one of their own.

As communitarianism moved into the social sciences, it was fueled by two trends there.

Says Alan Wolfe, dean of the graduate faculty at New York's New School for Social Research: "In the last few years, there has been a new interest in the social sciences both in discussing moral principles and in applying them to specific social-policy questions. Communitarianism has fit well into that."

But communitarianism has also run up against academic obstacles. In some fields, it has been slowed by prevailing orthodoxies. In economics, for example, its criticism of individualism has often clashed with mainstream economists' faith in unrestrained competition. It has also run afoul of other scholarly movements, including feminism.

"Every time I start talking about not ceding the issue of family values to the Right, some feminists tell me that I'm oppressing women," says Jean Bethke Elshtain, a professor of political science and philosophy at Vanderbilt University. "Especially in the academy, it's been hard not to get hoisted out of the room."

Even avid supporters acknowledge that communitarians still make up only a minority movement in academe. But they have found the public arena more responsive.

Publishers say so-called communitarian books have touched a public nerve. One of the first academic books to invoke a communitarian ideal, *Habits of the Heart*, by Robert N. Bellah and four other scholars, has sold over 400,000 copies around the world.

A spate of other recent books that label themselves communitarian or that touch on communitarian themes of service and responsibility — Charles Taylor's *Multiculturalism and "The Politics of Recognition"*, Benjamin R. Barber's *An Aristocracy of Every-*

Moral Commonwealth — are selling briskly.

Mr. Etzioni recently brought out *The Spirit of Community*, advertised as "a communitarian agenda."

Personal contacts have combined with political trends to help communitarians build a bridge to policymakers. Both Prof. Galston and Mr. Etzioni have long-standing ties to the Democratic Party. Prof. Galston was issues director for Walter Mondale's 1984 presidential campaign, and Mr. Etzioni was a senior adviser in President Jimmy Carter's White House.

"In the late 1980s and early 1990s, the Democratic Leadership Council (DLC), under the chairmanship of Bill Clinton, began to scan the horizon for ideas to create a new party — and they met up with communitarianism," Prof. Galston says.

"People like Bill Clinton were responding to their own experiences," he adds. "They saw coupling rights and responsibilities as both good policy and good politics."

As Prof. Galston and other communitarians began to share ideas with policy officials at the Progressive Policy Institute, the DLC's think tank, the communitarian network also stepped up its public activities. It has published four position papers — on families, gun control, social and economic policy and organ donation. The papers advocate such policies as giving parents allowances to make it easier for them to stay home with young children; making divorce laws tougher; restricting the manufacture, sale and possession of guns; providing community development grants; and encouraging community-based efforts such as neighborhood crime watches.

The network has also started a newsletter, put out audio tapes, established a speakers' bureau and set up an 800 telephone number. In 1994, it plans to rate political candidates on a communitarian scale.

Now the question is whether communitarians can hold together what started as a loose coalition of scholars with different politics, ideas and goals. Most communitarians say it is too early to tell.

Within academe, there has long been a political split among communitarians. Conservative theorists have attacked individualism for undercutting traditional communities, and liberals have criticized it for discouraging citizens from participating in democracy.

The academic balance may be tilting to the liberals, with a number of recent books and articles invoking "liberal communitarianism." But the communitarian network has taken pains to stress that it is nonpartisan. Many communitarians, such as Vanderbilt's Elshtain, say the "communitarians are people who don't fit into traditional liberal or conservative categories."

The word still means different things to different people.

For example, Mr. Gardner, the founder of Common Cause, now a professor of public service at Stanford University, stresses the democratic nature of communitarianism. "The key is building grassroots communities, where people make their own decisions," he says.

Others emphasise social values. "The largest appeal of communitarianism," says David Popenoe, associate dean of the faculty of arts and sciences at Rutgers University, "is to liberals who have become social conservatives, and who believe in certain issues like law and order that traditionally were considered conservative."

Mr. Bellah, a professor of sociology at the University of California at Berkeley, signed the communitarian platform but is nervous about the label. "To some supporters it means face-to-face groups and people taking responsibility for themselves," he says. "But if we don't look at the large institutions and structures, such as the economy, that form a good society, we are not going to accomplish much."

Mr. Barber of Rutgers signed the communitarian platform "with exception" to the section on moral education. "I wanted to indicate that I don't believe the community always trumps the individual," he says.

Mr. Etzioni acknowledges that "there are some issues, such as abortion and gay rights, that we know communitarians cannot agree on, so we have completely avoided them."

Can communitarians do that in politics?

"The cliché is that the devil is in the details," Prof. Galston says. "But we may find that some issues are more difficult to compromise in the language of ideology than in specific policies. We'll have to see when we draft legislation."

Mr. Finn is more sceptical. "A fair number of people who support communitarianism principles are fretful that, when it comes to actual politics, the traditional liberals will do most of the heavy lifting in the Clinton administration," he says.

From outside communitarianism, some critics fault the movement for being too vague — and even inconsistent or dangerous.

Nadine Strossen, president of the American Civil Liberties Union and a professor of law at New York University, says some communitarians oppose regulating hate speech — calling on members of local communities to counter it in public discussions rather than legislating against it — but favour random drug testing or laws making divorce more difficult.

"From a civil-libertarian point of view, coercion makes all the difference. Some of the policies communitarians are calling for to help families or to make communities safe would be fine if they were voluntary, but would endanger liberty if not," Prof. Strossen says.

A serious national effort is required to reduce the tendency of individuals and institutions to look to the central government for all the basic services that are required to improve quality of life; the public sector's role must be complemented by improved preventive measures that rely primarily on awareness and participation at the community level. This has clear implications for our political and economic decision-making structure, for people who assume greater responsibility for their own well-being will want to have a greater say in the policy and fiscal decisions that affect their lives. In view of the positive political evolution and democratisation that we are experiencing, there should not be any substantial political obstacles in this respect.

Rather, the danger is that in a moment of short-term economic pressure and an increase in the number of families in need, the people may revert to the traditional habit of asking the government to redress all wrongs and to meet all needs. The emergence of pockets of poverty and need, in both urban and rural areas, and the dangerous pressures on our natural resources base add a sense of urgency to the process of rethinking our national development strategy.

The answer to this important challenge will have to come out of the psyche and the sentiments of the people themselves. Clearly, though, this will require new initiatives that are based upon and that also enhance the principles that have allowed us to achieve impressive progress in recent decades: a) a parallel focus on education and egalitarian education of males and females, b) promoting community participation through local structures that reflect our communal sense of responsibility for our collective well-being, and, c) focusing government interventions and support on the most needy in society, so that the new stratum of poor families that emerged in the last five years does not become a chronic sub-class of marginalised people that results in a severe social and political cleavage based on criteria of survival and wealth.

Our experience in the last half a century suggests that we are well prepared to meet these challenges; the challenges themselves require that we recognise the need to reassess our needs and goals and to formulate new approaches that are in line with our requirements, our capabilities, our values and our impressive legacy of human development.

© 1993 RAMI G. KHOURI

### LETTERS

## Freedom of a hero

To the Editor:

E. Yaghi's article "C'est la Vie" (Jordan Times, Dec. 2, 1993) makes us stop for a moment to think about one of the most incomprehensible concepts of life: that of war.

Humanity has reached a point in which writing about war has become useless. The more authors put the emphasis on the subject, the more we witness the world's neglect of it. And what evidence do we need more than our sad present, which adds to the tragic history of the world.

Wars take today the biggest chunk of the news items, if not all of it sometimes. And where there is no actual fighting, there are other conflicts: economic, religious, even cultural, which are destructive as well.

To write about war may be ineffective. What is important is the individual's concept of war. Belief is what makes life go on, but one sometimes sticks to a belief without questioning its validity to be a hero is all that matters.

Westerners do not care about humanity more than the rest of the world, they only try to project a compassionate image in order to win the world's sympathy. The case is just the opposite in our position.

There is a big difference between a hero of war and a hero of peace. A hero of war is the one who worships power. For this reason, he is weak and can be easily overcome. Power is no longer the richness and beauty of the soul. It is an evil, capitalist and propagandist monster. But if it happens that the hero of war reaches power, he becomes protected by it although he does not have the minimum of courage. He is unreasonable and he knows it. Tyranny becomes the easier way to shape this power.

The real hero is the one who controls the evil inside himself; and this would be a hero of peace. But this is not enough. The hero of peace has, after he controls the evil inside himself, to stop the tyranny of external evil upon him. So when he fights, he should fight for his internal and external liberation as one is the result of the other.

Claudia Rafick Howari,  
P.O. Box 283,  
Yarmouk University,  
Irbid.



## Movement grows in Japan for scrapping death penalty

By Pierre-Antoine Donnet  
Agence France Presse

TOKYO — Japan ranks alongside the United States as the last major industrialised country where the death penalty is still practised, but those lobbying for the ultimate sanction to be scrapped forever are gaining ground.

Seven people have been executed in Japan since the start of the year, the highest annual toll since 1976, with the most recent cases being in late November, four months after Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa came to power.

Fifty-five other people are waiting on death row, including several elderly men and two women. In Japan, the method of execution is hanging, which takes place early in the day one or two hours after the condemned person has been informed.

Even though Japan reaffirmed just last month that it had no intention of abolishing the death penalty, the latest executions have provoked troubled reactions, including from within Mr. Hosokawa's rickety seven-party coalition.

Among those who expressed dismay was the minister for the science and technical agency, Satsuki Eda, who said the deaths were "extremely regrettable."

Forum 90 has become the major vehicle for those clamouring for Japan to ratify the international convention against the death penalty.

One of its leaders, Yoshihiro Yasuda, declares: "The abolition of the death penalty is nearing. The latest executions have roused a major debate in

the country. A growing number of deputies now understand the importance of the issue."

"It is an essential step for any so-called modern society, because abolishing the death penalty concretely establishes the value of human life," Mr. Yasuda says.

But Japan is a country where opinion is rooted in the belief in retribution — that a murderer must be punished with his life. Just 28 per cent of Japanese support ending the death penalty, according to an opinion poll published in May.

Even though this represents a minority, it is still a growing minority, for the figure in 1989 was only 15.7 per cent in favour.

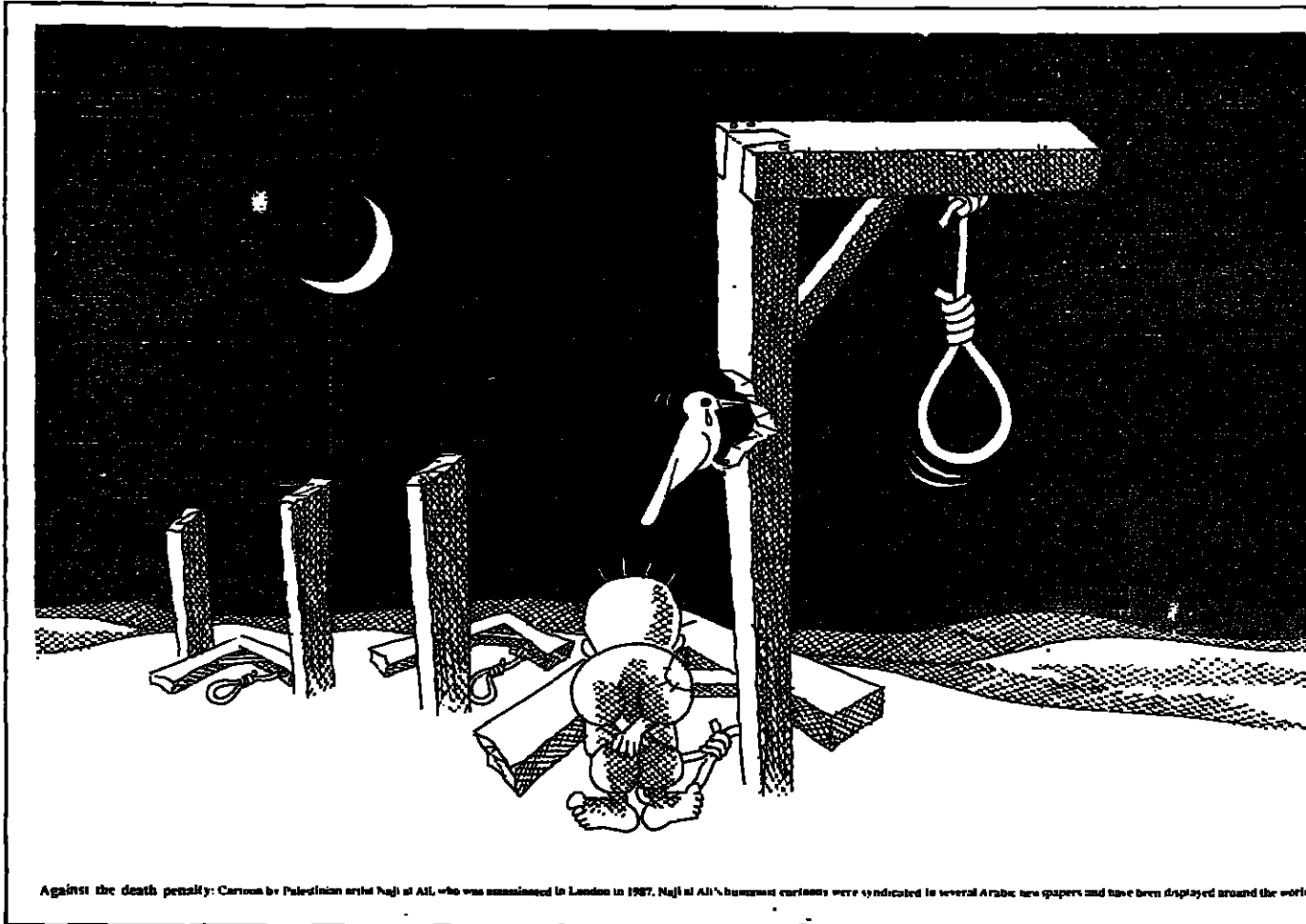
Japanese abolitionists insist that the relatively weak support they get from the public will not be a factor to stop the hangman stowing away his noose.

They point to the case of France, where the death penalty was scrapped in 1981 even though 62 per cent of the public were opposed to the move.

Forum 90 says that 260 of the 763 deputies in the two houses of the Diet support its case, at least 50 more than at the start of the year. Nine ministers are also in favour, it says.

In Asia, only a few countries and regions have taken the step of formally scrapping execution: Australia, Cambodia, Hong Kong, Kiribati, the Marshall Islands, Micronesia, New Zealand, the Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

"If Japan decides to follow suit, that decision will have an



Against the death penalty: Caricature by Palestinian artist Hajj al-Ah, who was assassinated in London in 1987. Hajj al-Ah's humanist cartoons were syndicated in several Arabic newspapers and have been displayed around the world.

enormous impact on the rest of the region," Mr. Yasuda says. Forum 90 describes life on Japan's death row as "barbarous and inhumane."

Those condemned to death are effectively isolated from other prisoners, kept in cells where they are under round-

the-clock observation by remote-circuit TV, and are only permitted to send letters to close relatives.

Even wandering about one's cell or lying on the mattress without due cause, or singing or speaking to oneself, are generally forbidden, Mr. Yasu-

da says. The only relief from this is when the Buddhist priest enters the cell to advise the inmate on how to cope with his final hours.

This severe treatment, which was beefed up at the end of the 1960s, aims to create a climate of austerity so that the conde-

mned man "can attain peace of mind and accept his coming execution."

The Japanese Justice Ministry's formal policy is never to confirm executions. A message is usually sent to the prisoner's family to announce his death, but the cause is never given.

## Making peace has been harder than expected for Israelis and Arabs

By Nicolas B. Tatro  
The Associated Press

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — Making peace is hard to do.

That's the lesson of more than two years of quarrelsome and fragmented Middle East negotiations which have hopped all over the globe in search of a solution.

The process is inching forward but ultimate success depends on the Palestinians and Israelis, who are behind schedule in starting the self-rule plan for the West Bank region of Jericho and the Gaza Strip.

Syria has agreed to resume talks with Israel early next year in Washington, probably in February.

Jordan and Israel have talked quietly in the background.

Six committees and a myriad of working groups are studying more than 50 projects for joint cooperation in the Mideast.

Ingrained mistrust and almost daily bloodshed have slowed the process, and neither Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin or PLO leader Yasser Arafat have proved to be adept salesmen to a public often confused and ill-informed about the issues.

When Mr. Rabin reluctantly accepted a handshake from Mr. Arafat on the White House lawn Sept. 13, hopes were raised for a quick resolution.

But the going has been tougher than expected.

Israel has insisted that before withdrawal begins, agreement be reached on security issues because it fears Mr. Arafat will not be able to contain extremists, especially the Muslim fundamentalists who have killed 21 Israelis since mid-September.

Palestinians see no letup in Israeli army arrests or shootings that have claimed 27 Palestinians killed in the same period. Many are starting to question Israel's intention to withdraw from occupied land.

The accord between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation was merely an outline, designed to get the process started without having to tackle sensitive issues that had thwarted previous peace initiatives.

Critics say the agreement is seriously flawed, that the handshake was the "happy ending" of a movie that has yet to be made.

Moshe Maoz, a political science professor at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, said postponing tough issues — like Jewish settlements, Jerusalem and Palestinian demands for a state — made the whole idea of an interim, "Gaza-Jericho first" solution unworkable.

The ambiguity is not helpful. It creates resentment among both Israelis and Palestinians," said Mr. Maoz, who has been an adviser to Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

Palestinians need encouragement that in three to five years they will have a state. Jewish settlers need a clear message that they will have to evacuate or live under Palestinian sovereignty."

Hanan Ashrawi, who was until recently a PLO spokeswoman, said Israeli settlements in the heart of Palestinian areas were a key problem. They will be targets for attacks by extremists and keep soldiers on the ground where they are not wanted.

"An agreement with land mines is a recipe for future conflict: Israel should dig up these landmines now," she said.

Mr. Rabin has decided to take a go-slow approach, however, and aides say he will not make any unilateral gestures like uprooting settlements.

"We appreciate the fact that things are taking more time than some people might have hoped for, but we feel that the most important thing is to move ahead slowly but surely and not with a big leap that will ignore the issues which still have to be resolved," said Uri Dromi, director of the Government Press Office.

The central issue now is control of the bridges and border crossings linking the West Bank to Jordan and the Gaza Strip to Egypt. If Mr. Arafat controls the crossings, it is a symbol of sovereignty and will end humiliating searches of travellers. But Israel fears that will be an avenue for gunrunning and terrorists.

In talks in Al Arish, Egypt, Israel and the PLO are mapping the transfer of power from Israel's military government to the new Palestinian authority.

The two sides have also met in Paris to discuss trade policies and have until July to reach agreement.

The impasse in the Israel-PLO talks is having a domino effect, holding up progress with other countries as well.

Mr. Rabin, according to insiders, does not want to make a deal with Syria on the return of the Golan Heights until Palestinian autonomy is well along. He fears the Israeli public will not take too many concessions to the Arabs all at once.

Without an agreement with Syria, Lebanon refuses to make a deal and Jordan is reluctant to start implementing the outline for peace signed Sept. 14 in Washington. In talks in late November, the two sides agreed Jordanian bank branches would be opened in the West Bank but that plan has been stalled awaiting PLO approval.

There is yet another level of Arab-Israeli negotiations — the so-called multilateral talks held with the help of 30 countries including the United States and Russia. Recent rounds have been held in Beijing, Tokyo, Cairo, Copenhagen, Moscow and Tunis with the topics being regional cooperation in the environment, water, refugees, economic development and arms control.

Among the more than 50 projects being studied by a myriad of working groups are roads linking Israel to the rest of the Middle East, regional power grids, water-sharing and arms verification.

## Sudan leaders mark Christmas in south

By KHARTOUM (Agencies) —

Senior members of the strongly Islamic government in Sudan celebrated Christmas in the three main towns in the south, apparently in an attempt to dispel the impression that the government is anti-Christian.

Vice President Al Zubeir Mohammed Saleh was in Juba, the main town in the south, Mohammed Al Amin Khalifa, speaker of the unelected legislature, was in Wau and Brigadier Saeed al-Karrar, the minister of energy and mining, was in Malakal.

The three men, all former members of the military council which ruled Sudan until September, attended prayers in churches in the three provincial capitals Saturday, newspapers said.

Never before have so many senior officials from Khartoum celebrated Christmas in the south, where the people are mostly either Christians or animists.

Southern rebels have been fighting since 1983 to overthrow the Khartoum government, which is dominated by Muslim and Arabic-speaking northerners.

Some human rights groups have accused the government of obstructing the activities of the Christian churches and of trying to convert southerners to Islam by force.

But the three politicians told Christmas worshippers that Islam and Christianity co-existed peacefully in Sudan and that reports of persecution were an invention by hostile foreigners.

State television showed Major-General Saleh telling worshippers in Juba that all religions were the same and he did not see any difference between Islam and Christianity.

In a separate development, a Khartoum newspaper said the government had protested at the U.S. government making

posthumous awards to two Sudanese executed by the government in southern Sudan last year.

The superior honour award was given last Tuesday to the families of Andrew Tombe and Baudoin Tally at the U.S. embassy. Both worked for the U.S. government aid agency USAID in Juba.

The rebuke in a government newspaper marked yet another deterioration in relations between Washington and Khartoum, once a key U.S. ally in the Horn of Africa.

The daily Al Engaz Al Watani, quoting unnamed Sudanese diplomatic sources, said that the embassy in honoring traitors violated "all diplomatic norms, while the Sudanese government has observed all international conventions on the question."

The paper said, however, that the government would not file an official protest.

## Who kills who in Algeria's war?

By Hassen Zenati  
Agence France Presse

ALGIERS — More than 600 groups of armed Islamic militants are thought to be operating in Algeria, fighting what they see as a holy war in which the law of the gun is swiftly becoming a way of life.

On the streets it is becoming increasingly difficult to differentiate between "ordinary" crimes and "political" crimes.

Armed robbery is on the increase, bandits roam the country's roads holding up security vans, disputes and arguments end in gun battles, blackmail of foreign or private Algerian businesses is rife.

Officials say that out of the 200 armed thefts in the first quarter of 1993 many were carried out to finance the "jihad" — or holy war — and helped raise about 600,000 French francs (\$100,000), according to police.

Goods that are not bought are stolen — some 612 hunting rifles and 272 vehicles have been reappropriated to the militants' cause.

The situation worsened when, after a long struggle, security forces took control of many urban mosques, cutting off a once-lucrative source of income for militant groups that had been fed by Friday collec-

tions, and the sale of prayer cassettes and religious books.

Witnesses say the lines are now so blurred that even crimes of passion, or banal disputes between estate agents have been described as politically-motivated — even if most of them are never claimed by any group.

In return militant groups have blamed some attacks on the divisions between the police and the information services.

Western observers believe many of the 600 groups are little more than cells of two to three people acting independently and with little coordination.

They believe they are killing in "the name of God" and yet often their victims are members of other cells who also share the goal of creating an Islamic state in Algeria.

Some 3,000 people, including civilians, militants and security forces have died in the past two years since the fundamentalists launched their armed struggle.

It followed the cancellation in January 1992 of the second round of general elections that the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) was set to win. Since then the violence has shown little sign of abating, with

security forces retaliating in increasing crackdowns to whittle away the militants' support.

Moussa Krouche, a FIS representative living in France, said recently that "the FIS is not in control of the situation on the ground" and condemned the recent spate of killings and kidnappings of foreigners.

Algeria's war-weariness could be one factor that prompted Algerian authorities to hold secret talks with founding members of the now banned FIS in a bid to halt the cycle of violence.

It may be a start, but the violence is also rooted in the country's current economic and social crisis, which was provoked by sharp fall in petrol prices in 1986.

Young, unemployed men, disaffected university students and others in the underclass make willing recruits to the holy war.

On Sunday the radical armed Islamic group claimed responsibility for a series of fatal attacks on foreigners in Algeria in a statement to the Paris-based daily Le Monde in its weekend edition.

The statement warned: "The attacks will continue... we will continue to hunt down the enemies of God."

## King receives message from Assad

(Continued from page 1)

Arab land. Syrian-Israeli talks are deadlocked over the status of the Golan Heights.

Mr. Sharaa said on arrival the Assad-Clinton summit would affect the whole peace process.

Mr. Sharaa criticised the PLO and said there was no current Syrian-PLO coordination.

tion.

"The implementation of the PLO-Israel deal does not affect the Syrian track of negotiations or other tracks," Mr. Sharaa said. "But the coming steps will help us all in shifting the peace process to its right track."

"As an Arab party concerned with Arab coordination and a unified Arab stand, we

had participated in convening several ministerial meetings for countries concerned with the peace process; but unfortunately one of the Arab parties had quit coordination attempts and the unified Arab stand," he said.

He said Jordanian-Syrian coordination will go ahead, and Syria's coordination with Lebanon was proceeding well.

## Peres and Abbas hold talks in Cairo

(Continued from page 1)

bringing anything new with me," Mr. Peres said.

Israel Radio reported Sunday that Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin told a cabinet meeting Israel was prepared to nearly double its offer of land around Jericho to 20 to 50 square kilometres. However, that remained far short of the 200 square kilometres that Mr. Arafat has insisted on.

Mr. Peres orchestrated the secret talks in Norway that led to the Israel-PLO accord on principles of peace signed last Sept. 13. Mr. Abbas was a major player in the Oslo dialogue on the Palestinian side.

Mr. Abbas and Mr. Peres opened the first session of Cairo negotiations in October but have not headed their delegations since.

Participation by Mr. Abbas had been in question because of his disagreement with Mr. Arafat over conduct of the talks. Sources in Tunis, who spoke privately, said Mr. Abbas had complained that Mr. Arafat was pushing "unrealistic demands."

Mr. Peres and Mr. Abbas both reportedly want to push for agreement quickly to help stop violence by opposition Palestinians and Jewish settlers that is threatening the entire peace process.

But in both their camps, there are voices urging caution, especially in Israel where Mr. Rabin has repeatedly said he wants a thorough agreement rather than a quick one. A Dec. 13 deadline for starting the Israeli withdrawal was

missed because of disagreements over Jericho and who will control the borders to Jordan and Egypt.

But the two sides apparently also disagree on many details of how Palestinians will run day-to-day affairs under autonomy, which could further delay agreement unless there is an overall breakthrough.

Palestinian sources said some progress was made on the outstanding sticking point at talks in Paris and Oslo last week. Palestinian negotiators and Israeli officials expressed optimism that an end to the delays is in sight.

Mr. Peres sounded diplomatic but non-committal when questioned by reporters earlier on Monday at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry. He met Mr. Masa before Mr. Abbas arrived in Cairo.

"Let us not forget that the Palestinians will take an immediate responsibility for over one million people and that is a serious responsibility."

He added: "On security matters, we shall remain true and loyal to the letter and spirit of the declaration of principles."

Mr. Arafat told Reuters Sunday he was hoping for "positive answers" during this week's talks.

Nissim Zivli, a politician from Israel's ruling Labour Party, told reporters after returning from a meeting with Mr. Arafat in Tunis that there could be agreement this week.

"The talks are going to be very tough, very stubborn, with each side knowing better

than ever the crucial positions of the other, and neither side planning to give in easily," he said. "But the common ground on both sides is the desire to reach agreement already this week."

An Egyptian government newspaper, Al Akhbar, meanwhile denied Egypt was pressuring the Palestinians to make concessions to obtain an accord on launching self-rule.

Israeli government spokesman and Health Minister Chaim Ramon said Sunday that an agreement might be reached within 10 days.

## Rabin wins

(Continued from page 1)

threw out a gentleman's agreement with the government that guaranteed each side would match the other's absences due to illness or travel overseas.

Benjamin Netanyahu, head of the right-wing Likud Party, told his legislators at the time to use all legitimate means to topple the government. Since then, both sides have scrambled to fill the chamber for no-confidence motions.

Seven coalition members, including two ministers, and 13 opposition members were absent for Monday's vote.

"Maybe in this place you have a majority," said Mr. Netanyahu. "But in the street you don't have any majority and today we are expressing the feelings of the nation; the lack of confidence it has for you."

By Benedicte Manier  
Agence France Presse

PARIS — Population experts meeting here have called for a ten-year campaign to promote contraception in the Third World to curb a population explosion which could hit 8.5 billion in the first quarter of next century.

The earth's population has doubled since 1950 and at present rates of growth will reach 6.7 billion within ten years. The experts warned at a two-day symposium which opened Tuesday under the auspices of the French foundation Equilibre des Populations.

World population now stands at 5.5 billion and overpopulation has already slashed the living standards of millions in the developing world. Some 770 million people are underfed.

Two billion do not have enough clean water and 100 million have had to leave home in to make a living. Every year, 14 million children die from preventable diseases.

Three people are born every second and in the developing world only about half of the couples have access to family planning, because of illiteracy. Many women are unable to make such decisions on their own.

United Nations experts say one in three pregnancies in the world is unwanted.

The Third World is responsible for 95 per cent of world population growth and in some countries the population has doubled in the space of one generation.

If we do not want 6.7 billion people on earth in a decade,

"We must provide developing countries over ten years with 50 billion condoms, 11 billion oral contraceptives, 178 million sterilisation operations and 400 million intra-uterine devices," said Dr. Sheldon Segal of the New York Population Council.

Some progress has been made in the Third World. Average fecundity has gone down from six children per woman to less than four in one generation.

In South Asia, it has de-

clined from six children per woman in 1960 to 4.4 today and in Latin America from 5.9 to 3.2. But in Sub-Saharan Africa, the rate has remained steady at 6.5 children per woman for the past 30 years.

The experts said that often there were economic, cultural and political barriers to be overcome. The emphasis should be to encourage a political commitment to cutting the birthrate, on educating couples and making it easier for them to obtain cheap contraceptives.



Toujan Faisal, member of Parliament, met with members of the Amman Marriott management team upon her attendance of talks on "Cooperation Plans for Arab NGOs on Children Right Awareness" held at the hotel. (From right to left) Joseph Khoury, director of Sales and Marketing, Richard Lyon, general manager and Mr. Rami Safadi, sales executive. Participants discussed papers on "increasing people awareness on Children Right Convention and its implementation" proposing to fulfill objectives through workshops, studies, and circulation of data towards such awareness.

Season's Greetings  
A Special Discount on Keyboards

**YAMAHA**  

Since 1887

Wide Variety

Sole Agents & Distributors

Al - Swafish - Tel. ( )  
Jabal Amman - Tel. (64522)



## Asian stock markets shoot up to new highs

TOKYO (R) — Asia's surging stock markets continued their bull stampede Monday led by markets in Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia and the Philippines which all posted record highs.

Tokyo's stock market was a major exception, with share prices closing sharply lower, pushing the dollar higher against the yen.

In Singapore, frantic buying took share prices to a new peak, sending the 30-share Straits Times Industrials index to a closing high of 2,378.43.

The index, up 2.24 per cent, or 52.09 points, from Friday's closing high, was just below an intra-day all-time high of 2,384.01 set in afternoon trade.

A record volume of 746.20 million shares was traded worth \$1.56 billion (\$977 million).

In neighbouring Malaysia, the Kuala Lumpur Stock Exchange followed suit led by foreign buying of selected blue chips.

The composite index surged to a new high of 1,206.80 points before closing at 1,205.28, up 26.82 points from Friday.

In Bangkok, Thai shares

surged 2.75 per cent to break through the 1,600 barrier on the set index, setting a new closing high in active trade, brokers said.

The index jumped a flat 43 points to close at 1,608.12, breaking its previous high at 1,565.12 on Friday.

While Asia's other record-breaking market, Hong Kong, was closed for the Christmas break, Taiwan also caught the fever with its stocks surging 3.2 per cent to end at a 29-month high in heavy trade.

The weighted index hit an intra-day high of 5,530 and closed 171.30 points higher at 5,491.68, its highest finish since 5,591.96 on July 5, 1991.

Turnover was a healthy 178.59 billion (\$2.9 billion).

Some brokers attributed gains partly to a commercial times report quoting Securities and Exchange Commission Chairman Day Lin as saying a range of 5,000 to 7,000 points was an "appropriate level" for the market.

"Some players expect 5,800-6,000 by year end," said Tu Jin-Lung of Grand Cathay.

In Manila, share prices shot up to a new record high close

as demand continued to rise in a bullish market.

"We've been saying for some time now that the market should correct, but it refuses to consolidate due to too much demand," said Noel Reyes, vice president at DMT Securities.

The Manila composite index zoomed about 173 points while Makati soared about 160 points.

The index was up 27.10 points from Friday's close.

In Tokyo, gloomy sentiment sent stocks sharply lower. Investors were discouraged by Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa's failure to offer concrete economy-boosting steps on Friday.

The benchmark Nikkei average closed at 16,819.88 down 321.23 points, falling below 17,000 for the first time since Dec. 8.

"The market was deadlocked in the afternoon, with no major sell or buy orders," said Taketoshi Hashizume, general manager at Yamaichi Securities.

The downside may stay firm for the rest of the week as less selling may emerge, while

buying linked to the launch of new investment trusts is expected, Mr. Hashizume said.

Bourses in Australia, New Zealand, India and Sri Lanka were closed for market holidays.

In the currency market, the dollar kept its morning gains against the yen on the back of weakness in Japanese share prices but its top was heavy due to lack of market moving incentives in the afternoon.

The dollar closed at 111.25 yen and 1.6973 marks, up from 110.74 and 1.6944 at 1300 GMT in Europe.

## Rome finalises tax increases

ROME (R) — The Italian government was Monday finalising a round of tax increases, dubbed the annual "fiscal beating," that would raise 6.7 trillion lire (\$3.9 billion) to stop next year's accounts getting out of control.

The tax hikes, due to be passed by the cabinet Wednesday, are the final part of a package of austerity measures which the government plans for the new year.

"The package will be very balanced," Treasury Minister Piero Barucci said shortly before Christmas. "It won't be painless but it won't ruin people's holidays, either."

Leaked details of the package point to an increase of one of the lowest brackets of value

added tax (VAT) to 13 per cent from 12, hitting a range of goods.

Motorists are expected to face increases of up to 80 lire (47 cents) that will take petrol to around 1,650 lire (97 cents) per litre, among the most expensive in Europe.

Prices of some spirits and wines will be boosted by up to 200 lire (12 cents), economists forecast.

Italians will also have to pay more for the stamp duties on annual fees paid to keep their passports and driving licences valid, according to prediction.

Last week, parliament gave its final approval to the 1994 budget, which calls for unpopular cuts in health, education and pensions spending.

The tax package, unlikely to make politicians popular in the run-up to general elections expected next spring, will supplement the budget by raising extra revenue.

Together, the two measures aim to cut Italy's deficit — the country's overdraft — by 31 trillion lire (\$18.2 billion).

The increases will raise the burden further on one of Europe's most heavily taxed nations and are expected to push up inflation slightly.

However, economists say that will be better than a blow to Italy's image if it failed to keep its accounts in order.

"The package will be unpopular but it is the best that could have been presented under the circumstances," said

one Milan-based economist. "The government's credibility is at stake and it needs to find the cash."

Prime Minister Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, a respected former central bank chief appointed last April to implement financial reforms and guide Italy towards early elections, has made controlling the country's huge debts one of his top priorities.

His government has pledged to contain next year's deficit — the shortfall between government spending and income — to within its 145 trillion (\$85 billion) target.

Italy built up the debts from the early 1980s onwards as government spending began to spin out of control.

## Yeltsin decree liberalises Russian grain market

MOSCOW (R) — President Boris Yeltsin has limited the role of the state in Russia's domestic grain market and told semi-autonomous republics and regions they must take responsibility for their own supplies.

A presidential decree, published at the weekend by the official ITAR-TASS news agency, said federal authorities

would form a strategic grain reserve in 1994, but farmers would not be obliged to sell grain to the state as in the past.

The decree, which ordered federal and regional authorities to buy grain for their reserves at market prices, effectively ended the state order system that has been the cornerstone of the food distribution system for decades.

The size of the federal reserve, depending on military and other essential state needs, should be determined by Jan. 1, the decree said.

The state-controlled grain purchasing agency, Roskhlboprodukt, will still be responsible for supplying the reserve using federal budget funds.

"Subjects of the Russian

Federation (semi-autonomous republics and regions) will meet their demand for grain and grain products independently," the decree said.

It also outlawed attempts to restrict free movement of or obstruct trade in grains and outside within Russia, saying local authorities guilty of this risked losing all federal support for agriculture.

The decree called for privatisation of grain purchase, storage and processing facilities, most of which are owned by Roskhlboprodukt, by April 1. But it was not clear how much would remain in state hands.

The state property committee was ordered to list those enterprises in which the state would have a majority shareholding for three years.

## France can expect only slow growth in '94 — OECD

PARIS (Agencies) — France's economy will see gradual growth in 1994, with lower interest rates and improved export markets, but unemployment will continue to soar until more substantial recovery in 1995, the OECD has said.

"Output growth should strengthen gradually during 1994, driven by lower interest rates and export growth," the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) said in its year-end economic outlook.

The think-tank for rich nations said interest rates should fall significantly from next year in line with German rates, with the cost of three-month money averaging five per cent in 1994 and 3.9 per cent in 1995 from around 6.5 per cent now.

The French central bank has been cautious on monetary policy despite the virtual collapse of the European Community (EC) exchange rate mechanism in August and has trimmed its key intervention rate by just 0.55 percentage points since then.

The OECD expects French gross domestic product (GDP), a key measure of the size of the economy, to grow by 1.1 per cent next year after a 0.9 per cent contraction this year, with expansion quickening in 1995 to 2.7 per cent.

The government forecasts growth of 1.4 per cent next year but most private economists reckon that this is too optimistic.

The OECD said that despite a cut in income taxes the budget deficit would narrow by 0.75 percentage points as a share of GDP due to spending restraints. But the actual deficit might grow from 1993's expected shortfall of 317.6 billion francs (\$54.3 billion at current rates).

The government is forecasting a budget deficit of around 300 billion francs (\$51.3 billion) for 1994.

Unemployment — already at a record 12 per cent of the workforce in October — will increase to 12.5 per cent late next year before falling slowly in 1995, the agency said. High

jobless levels will dent consumer confidence and spending. But it said potential export growth could give an important boost to the economy.

With increased competitiveness and imports growing more slowly than exports, the balance of payments surplus should contribute a quarter percentage point to growth in 1994 and 1995.

However, the OECD warned that a recovery in exports next year was by no means certain.

Economy Minister Edmond Alphandery said the French economy seems well placed to recover at the beginning of next year.

He told parliament that "it is relatively reasonable to think that economic activity should begin to move forwards at the beginning of 1994."

Mr. Alphandery, who was defending a bill on various economic and financial matters, said that the recovery would be "slow" and would be "insufficient to deal with the social problems which France

is experiencing."

He stood by the official view that the French economy would grow by 1.4 per cent next year, having declined by 0.7 per cent or 0.8 per cent this year. These forecasts were "realistic even if they are not enough."

But Mr. Alphandery also said: "It is reasonable to think that the forecast we have made has a chance of becoming fact."

There was "no point in maintaining a morose climate to no purpose...catastrophe is not at all certain" and "for the time being any way, I do not think that there is any reason to talk in alarmist terms...the situation is no longer deteriorating...many companies see a slight improvement."

Mr. Alphandery was referring to the monthly report by the Bank of France which said that French industrial output had rallied in November on the basis of returns from company chief executives. Output had increased in the

sectors of food and agriculture, cars, intermediary goods and professional equipment, and it steadied in the area of consumer goods, the bank of France said.

But commercial activity declined and turnover fell by 4.2 per cent from the figure in October on a seasonally-adjusted basis.

Demand had increased particularly owing to an increase in exports to strong markets and notably in South East Asia, Latin America and the United States.

The outlook for orders and stocks had "improved" the bank said.

For the previous month the bank had reported a slight decline of industrial output.

The official INSEE statistical body, which last reported on industrial output for September, had said that industrial output had fallen by 0.3 per cent and manufactured output (excluding energy and food and agriculture) by one per cent.

## Oman reports stock exchange boom

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Economic reforms and a decision to allow foreign investors to trade in shares have boosted activity in Oman's stock exchange to record levels, the exchange's director has said.

Turnover in the Muscat Stock Market jumped by 66 per cent to 70 million Omani riyals (\$182 million) in the first 11 months of 1993 from 42 million riyals (\$109.2 million) during 1992, Mahmood Al Jarwani said.

"It is the highest turnover since the exchange was opened in 1989," he said in a telephone interview from Muscat.

"This is because new companies in Oman are floating shares within the government privatisation programme, an economic upturn in the region and our decision to allow other Gulf citizens to own shares."

Oman decided this year to allow investors from other members of the six-nation Gulf Cooperation (GCC) to have between 25 and 49 per cent shareholding in its companies, and it is planning to give access to others.

Bahrain also gives limited access to foreign investors into its stock markets. But dealing is still limited to nationals in the other GCC states — Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

## Vietnamese get lesson in capitalist markets

HANOI (R) — Senior banking officials in communist Vietnam are getting a crash course in capitalist stock markets this month as the country prepares to open its first stock exchange in Ho Chi Minh City.

Officials from central bank branches in Hanoi, Haiphong and Ho Chi Minh City and from the Export-Import Bank, the Agriculture Bank and other financial institutions are among those taking part, the Vietnam News Agency said Monday.

"Another advanced capital markets and securities trading programme is also scheduled to be held in Hanoi," the official agency said.

## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY DECEMBER 28, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

### GENERAL TENDENCIES:

Four strong oppositions from Venus, Mercury, Mars and the Sun to the Moon which goes Full in Cancer (Nebuchadnezzar) today.

Would create muddled thinking and confusions but you can relax this evening as the Moon trines Jupiter.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) in motion and don't get into a temper in the morning for tonight finds you able to consider and make headway towards your worldly activities.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You want to dispute some matter brought to your attention by a discontented person but ignore and later you can get into new ways to further business affairs.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You want to tell off an outside person in no uncertain terms but by holding back you find events unfold so you get the better of the situation.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) In the morning, tasks seem to be at sixes and sevens but then you can afterwards get out with close associates and reach new agreements.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You are wise to put off making appointments for pleasure in the morning and would be wise to spend the whole day organising your work load for the future.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Sidestep that potentially

upsetting argument at your residence and instead think of ways you can have a better time with compatible companions.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 23) Don't react to that sly note, message you receive in the morning but in the afternoon, evening get your home in ideal condition for the future.

SCORPIO: (October 24 to November 21) Avoid making any annual commitments materially anything but then you can get into the various communications awaiting your attention.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Don't tell others that you are truly discontented and unhappy this morning but all day and evening get into the practical side of your affairs.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Get away from worries about which you can do nothing and put your personal affairs on a more well organized basis so you have things you desire.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Don't try to get a beleaguered friend to solve your problems but rather discuss and work out with a close loved one who understands the situation.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) A purposeful friend who likes you is available to aid you where you most desire so discuss the situation with that person and a demanding bigwig.

## Malaysia launches second national car company

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — Malaysia launched its second car company Monday, a joint venture with Japan's Daihatsu Motor Co. Ltd. to make zippy, compact vehicles for Malaysia's rapidly growing middle class and increasingly affluent workers.

"It will be affordable and economical," said Prime Minister Mahathir Muhammad after he unveiled the name of

the company, Perusahaan Otomobil Kedua SDN BHD, or Perodua, along with its "kancil" (mouse deer) logo.

The first Perodua Kancil will roll off the assembly line in July, 1994 and will go on sale in September, said company chairman Raja Mohar Raja Badiozaman said.

The 660 cc car, priced at around 25,000 ringgit (\$9,700), is aimed at first car owners,

motorcycle owners who want to upgrade and families wishing a second car, Mr. Raja Mohar said.

The Perodua is the brainchild of Mr. Mahathir, who felt that Malaysia's first car, the Proton Saga built with Mitsubishi Motors Corporation, had become too expensive for most first-time car buyers, industry sources said.

A standard, no-frills Proton

now costs about 33,000 ringgit (\$13,000) compared with 19,000 when it was first launched in 1985.

The Proton car project, a cornerstone of Mr. Mahathir's ambitious plan to make Malaysia an industrialised nation, was widely criticised by economists as being financially unviable and ran into difficulties initially.

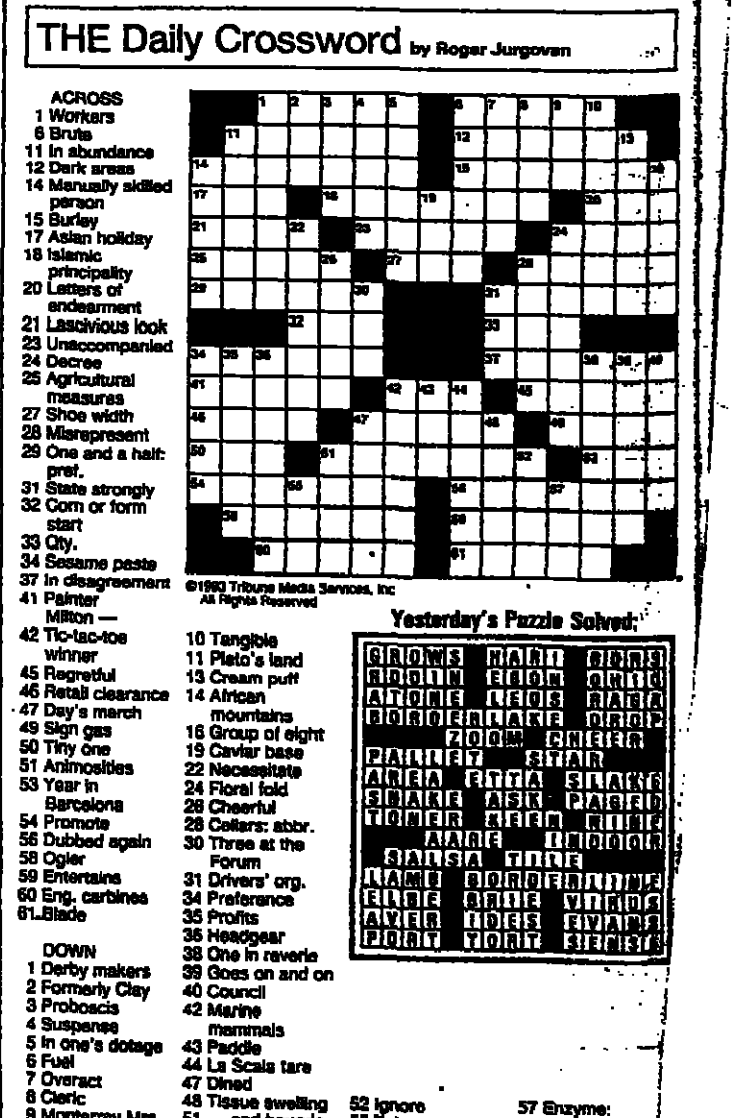
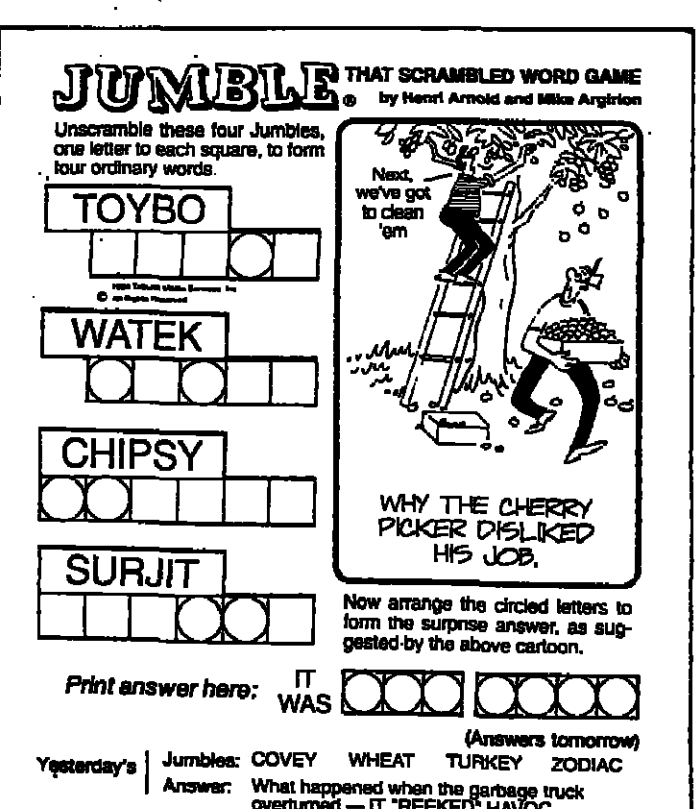
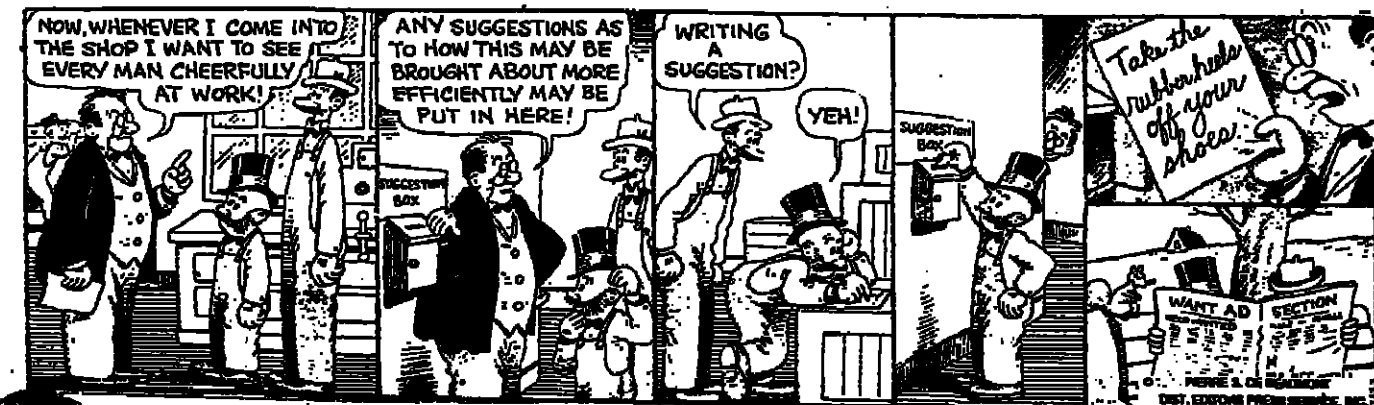
## Peanuts



## Andy Capp



## Mutt'n'Jeff









# 1 hurt as IRA bomb shatters truce

BELFAST (R) — The IRA ended its three-day Christmas ceasefire early Monday with a bomb attack on a rural police station in which one person was believed to have been injured.

Police said Irish Republican Army (IRA) guerrillas exploded what was thought to be a mortar bomb in an attack on the police post at Fintona, 90 kilometres west of Belfast.

One person, a civilian, was thought to have been slightly injured and was taken to hospital, they said. Further details were not immediately available.

The device went off minutes after a three-day Christmas truce expired at midnight Sunday and was a clear rejection of calls by Irish Prime Minister Albert Reynolds that the guerrillas lay down their arms and join peace talks.

It was the first attack by IRA gunmen fighting to end British rule of Northern Ireland since they tried to ambush an army convoy in Belfast one week ago, injuring one soldier.

Mr. Reynolds had urged the IRA and its political wing, Sinn Féin, to drop reservations about the text of the Anglo-Irish initiative, end the fighting and win a seat at new talks.

"Peace is the first and essen-

tial priority. We should not let ourselves be sidetracked into the many questions that will have to be solved in the future," Mr. Reynolds said.

"Everything else can be settled in detailed discussion or negotiation later," he wrote in the Belfast Sunday Life.

But Martin McGuinness, a top Sinn Féin official, confirmed in a weekend interview that the organisation still wanted to discuss the package with Britain and Ireland.

Mr. McGuinness told the Sunday Press that it would be weeks before the IRA and Sinn Féin finalised their response and that talks with Britain and Ireland were needed in the interim.

"We will be examining every sentence and comma (in the statement) trying to read between the lines. I see the document not as a last step but as a first along the road," he said.

The newspaper quoted him as saying Republicans felt the statement was an attempt to "dupe" the IRA into an open-ended ceasefire from which it would gain little.

Both Britain and Ireland have said publicly that there can be no negotiation over the statement until violence ends for good and Sinn Féin joins new political talks from which

it has hitherto been banned because of links with violence. At issue is the Dec. 15 statement by Mr. Reynolds and British Prime Minister John Major, which lays down principles to govern future relations between Ireland and the province it partitioned seven decades ago.

The Downing Street Declaration, named after Mr. Major's official London residence, says people of Ireland and Northern Ireland should have a say in the future of their island but gives Protestants in the north a veto over any change.

Its first target is peace, so that nationalists from the Catholic minority and Protestants who want to stay British can work out new political structures to run their future.

But Republicans say they fear Sinn Féin would gain little at new talks because the declaration underwrites the rights of the Protestant majority to veto any moves towards uniting Ireland and the province.

"The IRA has been backed into a corner and is being asked to come out surrendering. It just won't wash," said one Republican sympathiser.

Hundreds of IRA and Protestant extremists have been released from top security jails

for Christmas parole and are giving their views on the declaration to their leaders before returning to prison later this week.

## 7 hurt in London blast

Meanwhile, a suspected gas explosion rocked a central London district Monday, injuring at least seven people, some in a fast food restaurant, police said.

A spokesman said the blast occurred at about 9 a.m. in the basement of an empty office building opposite a McDonald's hamburger restaurant near Liverpool Street Railway Station on the East Side of the capital's financial district, the City.

"There's been an explosion. We think it's gas. There was a strong smell of gas," he said.

The spokesman said at least three of the casualties were customers in the restaurant and another four were passers-by. One person had head wounds, another had a broken leg and the rest suffered minor injuries such as cuts and bruises.

He said that while bomb squad officers were at the scene as a matter of routine, police were still treating the incident as a possible gas explosion.

# Bosnian army fails to take Serb area

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — The Bosnian capital was quiet Monday after heavy fighting in a Serb-held central district overnight in which the mainly Muslim Bosnian army apparently failed to retake territory, a U.N. spokesman said Monday.

The renewed overnight fighting came after a day of violence that left 17 injured and a Christmas truce in tatters.

Only sporadic small arms fire could be heard Monday in the city, coated by an overnight snowfall, after heavy fighting in the central neighbourhood of Grbavica.

A spokesman for the U.N. Protection Force said Monday that the overnight battles had apparently not led to any change in the front lines in Grbavica.

Grbavica was the scene of

fighting throughout Sunday and was the focus of clashes in the run up to Christmas between the Bosnian army and Serb forces.

Spokesman Idesbald Van Biesebroek said that the situation in the Bosnian capital remained "tense and unstable," noting that the ceasefire agreed by the three sides in the Bosnian conflict — separatist Bosnian Serbs, Croats and the mainly-Muslim army — was still not respected.

The three factions had agreed to observe a truce from Dec. 23 to Jan. 3. In the 24 hours up to 0700 GMT Monday, around 600 Serb shells pounded government positions in Sarajevo and residential areas, while the army retaliated with about 100 shells, U.N. military observers said.

In the rest of the country,

tension was also running high in Vitez, in central Bosnia and in the southern capital of Mostar.

Croatian Radio Sunday said Muslims shelled Croat forces around Vitez, Bosnian radio said Croats fired tank rounds on Bosnian army positions outside the central Bosnian town of Gornji Vakuf.

Six civilians were wounded in the Muslim enclave of Maglaj Sunday in northern Bosnia.

Britain Monday warned the warring parties in Bosnia that its troops would not stay there indefinitely and urged the groups to make peace.

"Those doing the fighting cannot expect we will be doing that for ever, because if they believe we are going to do it for ever then they lose the incentive actually to reach an agreement," Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd said.

Mr. Hurd, in an interview on British Broadcasting Corporation Radio, said Britain was committed to helping keep Bosnian civilians alive during the winter and would escort humanitarian aid convoys for as long as this was useful.

"We do not want them to believe that indefinitely there is going to be a European army protecting a humanitarian effort," he said.

No decision had yet been made to pull out the more than 2,000 British troops in Bosnia. "We have taken no decision but it should not be assumed that this commitment will go on year after year after year," he said.

Mr. Hurd reiterated Britain's position that it was up to the warring Serb, Croatian and Muslim parties in Bosnia to reach a political settlement to end the fighting and that no solution could be imposed

# Russian kidnap drama ends; gunmen seized

MOSCOW (R) — A five-day kidnap drama, in which four masked gunmen shuttled a dozen children and four adult hostages across south Russia in a hijacked helicopter, ended with the kidnappers' arrest Monday.

The hijackers fled the aircraft but were seized after a gunbattle with police. The hostages were unharmed and most of a \$10 million ransom paid to the gunmen was recovered.

Interfax News Agency quoted one of the hijackers as saying he needed the money for treatment for the killer disease AIDS.

ITAR-TASS news agency said the gunmen were from Russia, Kazakhstan and Central Asia. One was an air force navigator sacked for being drunk.

The four, who apparently planned their operation with military precision, launched their venture Thursday, bursting into a classroom in Ros-

tov in southern Russia, firing shots into the air and taking teenagers and a teacher hostage.

They commandeered a helicopter, loading it with explosives and turning it into a flying bomb. They repeatedly said they wanted to fly to Iran, although authorities in Tehran promised to cooperate with Russia in securing the hostages' release.

Izvestia newspaper, quoting officers from Russia's elite anti-terrorist group, said the choice of a helicopter had posed a series of problems for security forces who had been trained to seize airplanes and not helicopters.

The kidnappers and their hostages flew in stages to the spa town of Mineralnye Vody 400 kilometres southeast of Rostov.

There they demanded a ransom of \$10 million, which was paid Friday.

The kidnappers then re-

leased seven of the schoolchildren and their teacher. Their last two schoolboy captives and a bus driver taken hostage in Rostov were freed Sunday, just before the helicopter left Mineralnye Vody for Makhachkala.

But the helicopter, which news agencies said was tailing by the anti-terrorist unit of the elite Spetsnaz Force, made an unexpected stop on the outskirts of the town, the capital of Russia's semi-autonomous Republic of Dagestan.

The gunmen disabled the radio and fled. An Interior Ministry spokesman said the two pilots, who later flew the craft on to Makhachkala, were safe.

RIA news agency quoted the Interior Ministry as saying the hijackers managed to elude the elite forces tailing their helicopter for the crucial 30 minutes they needed to escape.

But their freedom was short-lived. Two hijackers were

arrested overnight after a brief gunbattle with authorities. The other two were seized without a struggle shortly afterwards.

ITAR-TASS news agency said \$6.5 million was recovered when two of the gunmen were arrested. Interfax said more money was recovered when the other two were seized.

Commonwealth Television said the hijackers' leader was a criminal nicknamed Marat. He lived in Bishkek, capital of the former Soviet Republic of Kyrgyzstan in Central Asia.

The others, including two students, had no criminal records.

TASS, quoting the hijack leader, said the gunmen had thrown some of the loot out of the helicopter's open door as they flew over Russia's separatist North Caucasian region of Chechnya.

"He said they did this so the helicopter would not be shot at from the ground," TASS said.



United Nations Secretary-General Boutros Ghali (left) is greeted by Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen prior to their meeting in Beijing (AFP photo)

# Ghali urges patience in Korea crisis

BEIJING (Agencies) — U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali urged the world Monday to be patient in trying to solve the crisis over North Korea's alleged nuclear weapons programme.

The U.N. chief said that as he was not a military expert he had no way of evaluating reports that the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency believes Pyongyang probably already has one or two nuclear bombs.

But Dr. Ghali told a news conference at the end of an Asian tour that took him to Japan, both Koreas and Beijing that in both Seoul and Pyongyang there was the political will to solve the nuclear problem.

He said he thought three channels of diplomacy could provide a way out of the crisis: Talks between North Korea and the United States, between North Korea and the International Atomic Energy Agency and between North and South Korea.

"Through negotiations and more negotiations we will be able to find a peaceful solution," he said. "We need patience to solve the problems."

Dr. Ghali said there was good will on the part of both North and South Korea to try

to resolve the nuclear issue and begin to address the fraught question of reunification.

"My own impression after many hours of talk... is that there is a political will to solve peacefully this problem and this is the positive element," he said.

"(There is) the political will to avoid an escalation, (and) the political will to find in a progressive way a coexistence and then a beginning of a unification between the South and the North," he said.

The nuclear crisis began when North Korea refused inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency, a U.N. body, of two sites that the United States believes are used to develop nuclear arms.

Dr. Ghali said he was unaware of any deadline for compliance, insisting that negotiations were the only way to resolve the standoff.

China, a long-time ally of Pyongyang and one of the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council with the power of veto, has long counselled patience in dealing with North Korea.

"China favours a proper settlement of the issue through dialogues and consultations, instead of imposing pressure

and sanctions," the official Xinhua News Agency quoted Premier Li Peng as telling the U.N. chief.

South Korean Foreign Minister Han Sung-Joo said Monday that he saw the "beginning of the end" to the dispute over North Korea's nuclear ambitions, with a package deal in sight.

"A beginning of the end of the nuclear issue has started," Mr. Han was quoted by Yonhap News Agency as telling journalists, adding that he was "more optimistic" than a few months ago that the row could be resolved through dialogue.

He said Pyongyang was willing to accept international inspections of its declared nuclear facilities, but without giving an impression that it was yielding to outside pressure.

North Korea also wants to resume talks with South Korea without losing face, he said.

Resumption of an inter-Korean dialogue was one of the preconditions put forward by Washington for reopening suspended high-level talks with Pyongyang to discuss improving ties.

Mr. Han said North Korea might find acceptable a kind of "package deal."

# Ramos orders hunt for church bombers

DAVAO, Philippines (R) — President Fidel Ramos, vowing not to allow extremists wreck his peace efforts, Monday ordered a hunt for attackers who lobbed grenades into a Philippine cathedral, killing six worshippers.

Eight hours after the Sunday evening attack in Davao City, suspected Christian militants retaliated by firing two grenades at a Muslim Mosque on the city's outskirts. One exploded but there were no casualties, police said.

More than 130 worshippers among thousands in the crowded cathedral for Sun-

day's main evening mass were injured.

In Manila, Mr. Ramos ordered the military to tighten security following the attack, which coincided with a ceasefire and peace talks between his government and Muslim separatists.

"I will not allow extremists or terrorists to disrupt the peace of our communities just like that, especially during the holiday season, where we have in fact worked out the suspension of offensive military operations," he told a news conference.

Police have linked a Muslim fundamentalist group to kidnappings and bombings of public buildings and religious sites in mindanao in the past year.

But Mr. Ramos said investigators had not yet pinpointed who was responsible for the Davao attack.

Police said one grenade was thrown by a short-haired woman accompanied by a bearded man. Another was tossed by a man in his twenties, while a third was thought to have been thrown by someone on guard outside the building. A fourth device failed to explode.

# Hosokawa eyes compromise in reform

TOKYO (R) — Japanese Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa said Monday he was willing to make further compromises to win approval of crucial political reform bills.

"The government will respect any agreement in this committee," he told the Upper House Committee on Political Reforms.

"It is a matter of course that we respect upper house deliberations," he said, indicating he was ready for a deal with the opposition.

Last Friday, Mr. Hosokawa apologised to the nation for failing to keep his promise that the bills, which include new electoral districts and stricter

anti-corruption measures, would become law by the end of this year.

He said that he would seek parliamentary approval of the bills by late January, the end of the current 135-day session.

Before the bills cleared the lower house in November, Mr. Hosokawa gave in to demands by the opposition Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and altered the composition of the new chamber.

His original plan, approved by his coalition in August, had 250 seats chosen from single-seat districts and another 250 through proportional representation for a new 500-

member body.

The LDP wanted 300 in the districts and 171 in the proportional list for a 471-member assembly. Mr. Hosokawa proposed a new formula — 276 in the single-seat constituencies and 224 from the proportional list — which passed the lower house.

Mr. Hosokawa also announced Friday that steps to boost the troubled economy would be announced in mid-January but his comments failed to convince the stock market. The key Nikkei Index fell by about 400 points Monday morning to below the psychologically important level of 17,000.

# Russians learn lessons of extravagance

MOSCOW (AFP) — Half a metre tall and no beauty, she comes with a price tag that would horrify most shoppers searching for a doll to brighten a child's Christmas.

But buying no less than \$1,000 for a toy has not fazed everyone here.

"They've just come in. We've sold two already," the gumchewing shop assistant said of the German-made dolls.

"To whom? To ordinary people. To Russians," she added before brushing off a request to wrap a \$65 stuffed toy because of its low price.

While much of the Western world recovers from its surfeit of celebration over Christmas, Russia is just warming up for its holidays, with Grandfather Frost due to make his rounds handing out gifts on Dec. 31.

At Boys And Girls, a toy store with an English name and hefty price tags, shoppers are tempted by such gewgaws as a petrol-engined car for children priced at \$7,900.

"A Russian customer bought one this month," the assistant said.

Around Moscow at shops like this, a festive extravagance has erupted in the wintry grey of the city, which as always is unrelieved by Christmas lights or decorations.

Moscow's pavements and streets have, however, been adorned — with ice that has transformed them into skating rinks. This year the city council has not de-iced the roads with the result that hospitals are seeing twice the number of broken arms and legs than last year.

For some, an icy pavement is only a slight obstacle between luxury imported cars and expensive hard currency shops such as Petrovka, the Sadko Arcade or the Gum Department Store.

"I've never had truffles, but I hear they're good," said a man in his thirties pushing a trolley through a hard-currency supermarket.

Without a thought for the prices, he began loading the cart with such fare as kumquats at \$60 for a tiny box of the fruit and French champagne at \$40 a bottle.

Afterwards he was planning a trip to the newly-opened branch of Hediard, the luxury Paris foodstore that has set up in the city centre.

In the cakeshop of the Petrovka store, where a slice of gâteau costs about half the minimum wage, a man from the Caucasus seated with a friend paid the check with a wad of hundred dollar bills pulled casually from his pocket.

While Moscow's nouveau riche splash out sums even the struggling middle classes are learning to follow the consumerist frenzy that has taken over the holiday in much of the world.

From toys to beauty products, television stations have been chiming out the names of brands long famous in the West.

This year when grandfather Frost visits, many Russian girls will be looking forward to their dream gift — a Barbie doll complete with boyfriend Ken and all the necessary accessories. Priced from \$48 in kiosk shops across Moscow,

# Philippine rebels play Robin Hood

MANILA (AP) — Communist rebels Monday hijacked a truckload of rice at gunpoint and distributed the supplies to poor families in Manila, police said. Maj. Rodolfo Rival said seven armed men, who introduced themselves as the Alex Roncayao Brigade, flagged down the driver of the truck on Juan Luna Street and forced him to drive to "Smoke Mountain," the city's notorious garbage dump where thousands of squatters live. The rebels distributed the 500 sacks of rice to hundreds of squatters who swarmed around the vehicle about 10 a.m. (1030 GMT), Maj. Rival said. The rebels fled and when police came to investigate, the squatters refused to cooperate. The brigade is a breakaway faction of the Communist Party of the Philippines, which celebrated its 25th anniversary Sunday.

# Dietrich's grave desecrated in Berlin

BERLIN (AP) — Vandals desecrated the Berlin grave of movie star Marlene Dietrich with feces and painted the words "slut in fur" in German on the headstone, police said Sunday. Dietrich died on May 6, 1992, in Paris at age 90 and was buried at Berlin's Fridenau Cemetery at her wish. Monday is her birthday. The movie star turned her back on Nazi Germany in the 1930s and became a U.S. citizen in 1939. She sang for American troops as they fought her countrymen. Many Germans branded her a traitor. Dietrich was booed — and applauded — during a 1960 concert tour and vowed never to return to Germany. Later she said she wanted to be buried next to her mother.

# Bardot protests hotel's dolphin aquarium

PARIS (AP) — Brigitte Bardot is upset that a hotel in French Polynesia plans to fill an aquarium with dolphins, but the government says it can't do anything about it. The former sex kitten, who now runs a foundation in her name to defend animal rights, said the was "firmly opposed" to plans to put up to a dozen dolphins in an aquarium at the Beachcomber Hotel in Moorea, Tahiti. Her foundation said Miss Bardot asked Environment Minister Michel Barnier to "urgently prohibit the capture of these dolphins as well as the scandalous opening of the dolphinarium." She urged "seeing dolphins and whales that swim freely in the rich waters of Polynesia," a foundation communiqué said. Mr. Barnier responded that he "regrets the capture of wild animals... especially of species that are increasingly endangered." But mainland French laws on animal protection do not apply to overseas territories, he said in a communiqué. The minister promised to ask officials in the territories to adopt those regulations.

# Support mounts for actress over Mandela kiss

NEW DELHI (AFP) — Indian movie stars and women's groups are rallying around a top activist actress after Islamic hardliners denounced her for giving South African leader Nelson Mandela a kiss in public. Support for Shabana Azmi, a Muslim, has mounted after a leader of India's Muslim community accused her of "un-Islamic behaviour" for kissing Mr. Mandela on the cheek during an awards ceremony in Cape Town on Dec. 12. "The action is against Islamic Law wherein no female is allowed to even interact openly with a male," said Akbar Ahmad, who demanded a public apology from the actress and warned of a possible boycott of her movies. Film stars and women activists immediately rose to her defence, calling the spontaneous kiss an innocent peck on the cheek for someone for whom Shabana has great admiration. "Shabana is the free spirit of a free country," said Dev Anand, one of India's top movie stars. "There was no feeling of lust. It was just admiration for a man." Zeenat Aman, who is also a Muslim and a former queen of the Hindi film world, added: "We should be proud that someone from our country was called upon to honour Nelson Mandela." Shabana, who lives in Bombay, was not available for comment. But her husband, writer Javed Akhtar, told AFP by telephone: "The whole thing is so ridiculous that it doesn't deserve comment."

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Clinton to visit Russia Jan. 12-15

MOSCOW (R) — U.S. President Bill Clinton will visit Russia from Jan. 12-15, the press service of Russian President Boris Yeltsin announced Monday. A statement said the two leaders would discuss bilateral relations, control over nuclear arms and regional conflicts. It is the second summit meeting between the two leaders. They met in Vancouver earlier this year, although Mr. Yeltsin also attended a summit of the leaders of the Group of Seven industrial countries in Tokyo in July. Mr. Clinton's visit starts one day after the opening of the new Russian parliament, elected on Dec. 12.

### Armenian plane crash kills 36

YEREVAN (R) — Thirty one passengers and five crew members died when their plane crashed in western Armenia, near the frontier with Turkey, an Armenian government spokesman said Monday. The plane, from the southern Russian city of Krasnodar, crashed late Sunday when landing in the Armenian town of Gyumri, formerly known as Leninakan, spokesman Vladimir Manoyan said. He said the accident was probably caused by thick fog on the runway. A government commission had been set up to investigate the crash. The type of plane which crashed was not clear. Mr. Manoyan said it was an AN-24 passenger plane, though a spokesman for Russia's state committee for emergencies earlier identified it as an AN-26 transport plane with 11 people and two passenger cars aboard.

### 68 die in S. Africa Christmas violence

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) — At least 68 people were killed in political, criminal and factional violence across South Africa over the Christmas weekend, according to police reports Monday. Most of the political violence, police said, was centered in the powderkeg black townships of Kaitleng, Kwatema and Daveyton east of here, where 11 people were shot, hacked, stabbed and burnt to death at the weekend. Three policemen, two in Transvaal Province and one in Cape Province, were murdered in separate attacks, bringing to 249 the number of policemen killed in South Africa this year. Most

of the bloodshed occurred in Natal province, where police reported 39 murders, including 11 people who were killed in a factionfight near Mtubatuba, in the far north of the province. Of the other killings, police spokesman Major Bala Naidoo said some were crime and robbery-related while others appeared to be linked to political violence in black townships and rural areas in various parts of the province. In the Cape Town area, police said 16 people were murdered over the Christmas weekend and around 300 assaulted.

### Tajikistan appoints new premier

DUSHANBE (R) — Parliament in the former Soviet Republic of Tajikistan has appointed Abduljalil Samadov as prime minister to replace Abdulmalik Abduljanov, who resigned earlier this month. Mr. Samadov, a supporter of a market economy, was previously deputy prime minister. Mr. Abduljanov had faced increasing pressure because of his country's economic problems. He has since been appointed acting Tajik ambassador to Russia. Mr. Abduljanov, 46, a successful businessman, retained his post as cabinet chief when ex-Communists came to power last year after a bloody civil war against Muslim radicals. The impoverished Central Asian country is still reeling in the aftermath of the conflict, which ruined its economy, thousands of refugees fled into neighbouring Afghanistan to escape the fighting.

### Bhutto arrives in China

BEIJING (AFP) — Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto arrived here Monday at the start of a trip to China and North Korea, during which she is expected to offer to mediate in Pyongyang and Washington's nuclear dispute. Chinese Premier Li Peng held a welcoming ceremony in the Great Hall of the People for his guest — on her first trip here since her party's victory in October elections — after which the two leaders entered talks. Mr. Li is to host a dinner Monday evening in honour of Ms. Bhutto, who is accompanied by her husband Asif Ali Zardari. Foreign Minister Sardar Asaf Ali, Defence Minister Aftab Shabban Mirani and financial adviser V. A. Jafery, Ms. Bhutto is also due to meet President Jiang Zemin and other senior officials, in addition to a group of Chinese businessmen.



# Sports

## Van Basten aims for March comeback

ROME (R) — Injured AC Milan and Netherlands striker Marco Van Basten has said he hopes to return to action next March but warned he would not take part in the World Cup unless he had proved his fitness at club level.

"I must try to gradually return to playing, little by little, in March at least," Van Basten was quoted as saying in the Gazzetta Dello Sport Monday.

"I can't concentrate on the World Cup without having played for Milan. You need to have a proper test to be called up for the national team you need to be firing on all cylinders for your club," he said.

The three-times European Footballer of the Year played just three matches in 1993, making a short-lived comeback from an ankle operation before requiring fresh surgery.

Doctors have ordered him to rest until the end of February but there is a fear he may need yet another operation on his damaged ankle and the player has admitted he is battling to save his career.

His absence from the World Cup in the United States in June would badly hamper a Dutch squad already hit by the decision of Johan Cruyff not to coach the side during the tournament.

Barcelona coach Cruyff could not agree personal terms with the Dutch Soccer Association.

"It's a real shame for soccer because people enjoy watching the sort of game Cruyff plays," Van Basten said.

But Van Basten also praised



Marco Van Basten

Dick Advocaat, who will lead the Netherlands in the finals, and was optimistic about his country's chances.

"The Netherlands have a strong squad, a good set-up. We must be among the five or six favourites."

## Campbell scores hat-trick in 4-0 Arsenal win

LONDON (Agencies) — Kevin Campbell scored a hat-trick to shatter Swindon's hopes of climbing from the bottom of the English Premier League for the first time this season as Arsenal cruised to an easy 4-0 away win Monday.

England striker Ian Wright scored Arsenal's fourth goal in the final minute with a superb 35-metre chip shot over goalkeeper Fraser Digby.

Wright, who had been booked earlier for a retaliatory foul on Swindon substitute Nicky Summerbee, had a role in all Campbell's goals.

Swindon were outplayed from start to finish as Arsenal cut through their defence time after time.

Campbell, chosen ahead of England's Paul Merson, had already missed two chances before he converted Wright's pass from four metres in the 19th minute after the England striker latched on to Ray Parlour's pass and tricked his way into the area.

Seven minutes later Wright dispossessed Paul Bodin on the halfway line and sent Campbell racing clear to score the second with a crisp finish.

Arsenal might have at least doubled their advantage before the interval but for a string

of controversial offside decisions that had manager George Graham leaping from the bench in frustration.

Swindon, though, never showed the quality to threaten a comeback in the second half and Parlor and Eddie McGoldrick both went close before Wright started the move which finished with Campbell completing his second hat-trick of the season with a tap-in from Parlour's 68th minute right-wing cross.

Wright, with just seconds left, tried his luck and squeezed the ball in under the crossbar to leave Digby groping in his air.

The win lifted Arsenal to fourth place in the table but still 16 points behind runaway leaders Manchester United, who drew 1-1 at home to Blackburn Rovers Sunday.

Southampton eased their English Premiership relegation worries and added to Chelsea's with a 3-1 home win over the London club Monday.

Second-half goals from Northern Ireland international Ian Dowie and Frankie Bennett saw the clubs swap places and Chelsea drop to one off the bottom after Mark Stein had cancelled out Tommy Widdington's opener for Saints.

Glen Hoddle's side, watched Monday by their most famous fan in Prime Minister John Major, have now taken just two points from their last 33 and are without an away win in 22 matches, equalling their record of 40 years ago.

The Saints took the lead in the 29th minute when Widdington stabbed home a free kick from six yards for his first goal for the club.

However, on the strike of half time Chelsea equalised when a blunder by Francis Benali allowed Stein to race through and lob over Dave Beasant for his first goal in eight matches since his 1.5 million-pound move from Stoke.

Chelsea failed to capitalise and Southampton regained the lead in the 66th minute when Paul Allen raced to the by-line and pulled the ball back for Dowie to slot home from close range and end a 17-game drought.

Two minutes from time Southampton made sure of the points as Dowie nodded on for substitute Bennett to race clear and smash home a rising shot from 10 yards to register Southampton's first win in six games.

Aston Villa's home game with Manchester City was postponed because of a frozen pitch. A similar complaint forced three Scottish premier games to be called off at Kilmarnock, Motherwell and Raith.

On Sunday, Manchester United midfielder Paul Ince fired an 88th minute equaliser as the English Premier League champions and leaders escaped with a 1-1 draw against Blackburn at Old Trafford Sunday.

United were in jeopardy of only their second defeat in 22 league games this season — and their first at home in all competitions for 14 months — when England international Ince came to the rescue.

Ince's goal cancelled out a 15th minute strike by forward Kevin Gallacher, and put United 13 points ahead of second-placed Leeds. Third-placed Blackburn are 14 points off the pace with a game in hand.

The Christmas holiday league programme had opened earlier in the day with Liverpool goalkeeper Bruce Grobelaar producing a brilliant display to enable his side to salvage a 0-0 draw at Sheffield United.

Midfielder John Williams made the first goal and scored the second as Coventry beat Wimbledon 2-1 away in the

other Premier League fixture. United's equaliser came during a tense climax in which the title holders gambled by sending everyone, including their Denmark keeper Peter Schmeichel, forward for a Lee Sharpe corner.

Schmeichel failed to make contact, Gary Pallister, headed goalwards and Brian McClair forced a reflex save from Tim Flowers, only for Ince to hook home the rebound inside the goalbox.

Midfielder David Batty was the architect of the Blackburn goal that stunned the Old Trafford fans, wriggling past a challenge from Mark Hughes to find Gallacher, who was racing down the right.

Gallacher took the ball through the legs of Pallister and then beat skipper Steve Bruce as he ran into the box. Schmeichel raced off his line but Gallacher coolly clipped the ball over his diving body and into the net.

United were well below their best and, although they stepped up the pace after halftime, Flowers did not have to make his first real save of the game until the 78th minute when he dived to touch away a 25-metre shot by Wales forward Ryan Gigg.

United were well below their best and, although they stepped up the pace after halftime, Flowers did not have to make his first real save of the game until the 78th minute when he dived to touch away a 25-metre shot by Wales forward Ryan Gigg.

## Russian players renew call for sacking trainer

MOSCOW (R) — Leading Russian players whose team have reached next year's World Cup finals in the United States have renewed their call for national trainer Pavel Sadayrin to be sacked.

"If Sadayrin is not removed, the Russian national team will be unable to prepare for the championships properly," Russia's captain Igor Shalimov told a news conference Saturday.

Shalimov, who plays for Italian league Internazionale, said Sadayrin's training methods were from "the stone age" and the training conditions for the national side were lamentable.

The revolt exploded earlier this month when 14 players, who included most of a large foreign-based contingent, called for Sadayrin to be dismissed following a 1-0 World Cup qualifying match defeat in Greece.

Seven of the players were at the news conference, including five who flew to Moscow from abroad especially to attend.

Shalimov said Sadayrin must be replaced by former Soviet national coach Anatoly Byshovets, who was sacked in 1992 after his side flopped at the European Championships in Sweden.

"We do not refuse to play

for the Russian national squad. We refuse to play in the team headed by Pavel Sadayrin," Shalimov said. "Only with Byshovets the Russian team has a chance."

Sadayrin and his supporter, Vyacheslav Koloskov, head of Russia's Soccer Federation, did not attend the news conference.

But Alexander Tukmanov, representing the federation, said Sadayrin would stay and indicated the rebel players could be dropped from the team.

Shamil Tarpischev, President Boris Yeltsin's adviser on sport, indicated he backed the rebel players.

"We must think first of all about Russia, our soccer fans and their favourite players," he said.

Other leading players who signed the letter were Benfica striker Sergei Yuran, Manchester United midfielder Andrei Kanchelskin and Karlsruhe striker Sergei Kiriyakov.

Byshovets has stayed out of the row. Recent press reports say he has been approached by Seoul to train World Cup finalists South Korea.

Russia have been drawn with Brazil, Cameroon and Sweden in Group B for the first stage of the 1994 finals.

## Gales sink one yacht, force 14 to retire in Sydney-to-Hobart race

SYDNEY (R) — Gale force winds and mountainous seas Monday took their toll on the Sydney-to-Hobart race, sinking one yacht and forcing 14 others to retire with torn sails and broken gear.

The Australian entry Chwyd became the first yacht to sink in the 49 year history of the race after the hit a submerged object which ripped off her keel and left a gaping hole.

The seven crew members had less than five minutes to send out a radio distress call and take to their lifeboats before the 10.8 metre (35 feet) yacht filled with water and turned turtle off the New South Wales south coast.

"There was a big bang and about five minutes later we found her filling up, so we went into the abandon ship mode," said skipper Craig Escott, 33.

"We sent out a distress call and as we jumped into the inflated lifeboat sent off flares," Escott said via a radio-telephone from the official race vessel Young Endeavour.

Four yachts which sighted the flared motor towards the Chwyd and the crew are picked up from their lifeboats about 60 miles east of Bateman's Bay by another racing yacht, Nymja Go, and later transferred to Young Endeavour.

The Chwyd was making her maiden Sydney-to-Hobart Race.

Race leader Brindabella, in her first real test of rough ocean racing, was still on target to break the 18-year race record as she entered base strait late Monday.

However, race weather forecasters said she was heading straight into 30 to 40 knot headwinds which were whipping up four to five metre (12 to 15 feet) waves.

"She is obviously doing well to be so far ahead," said a race official. "She is currently on target but with the conditions we do not expect the record to break."

A race sponsor is offering Australian dollars 100,000 (\$60,000) to the yacht breaking the record of two days 14 hours 36 minutes and 56 seconds set

by American Maxi Ketch Kialoa in 1975.

Among the 14 forced to retire Monday were the second placed American sloop Casiopea, because of torn sails, and third placed pocket maxi Amazon due to broken gear. A total of 16 yachts out of the starting fleet of 100 have now retired since the race began Sunday.

Currently in second place is Australian maxi Ragamuffin, a three time line honours winner of the 630-nautical mile race, about 37 miles behind Brindabella.

Third is pocket maxi Hammer of Queensland, fourth wild thing and fifth Harle-Mineral Waters.

The Bureau of Meteorology in Hobart has issued a gale warning for waters of Tasmania's east coast for the next two days, with winds expected to blow into the face of the fleet from the south and south-west.

The centre of the depression system causing the bad weather is located in Bass Strait, directly in the fleet's path.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

**Morocco ask Hidalgo for help**  
RABAT (AFP) — Former French National manager Michel Hidalgo has been asked to help Morocco's World Cup campaign. Hidalgo guided France to the 1984 European Championship and the 1982 World Cup semifinals before going to manage Olympique Marseille when Bernard Tapie bought the club. He set up as a consultant three years ago. Abdelhak Blinda, who steered Morocco through the African qualifying competition, would stay on as coach in charge of team selection. Hidalgo would advise on the opposition and tactics. He has yet to make up his mind. Morocco are in the same preliminary round group as Belgium, Holland and Saudi Arabia. They play Belgium and Holland in Orlando and the Saudis in New York.

**Samaranch plans to visit Sarajevo**  
ROME (R) — International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Juan Antonio Samaranch has confirmed he plans to visit the shattered Olympic City of Sarajevo next year. Samaranch told the Gazzetta Dello Sport daily he intended to visit the Bosnian capital, site of the 1984 Winter Olympics, after the games in Lillehammer next February. "After Lillehammer I will go to Sarajevo in person: I want to reunite the members of the organising committee (from 1984). A third Serbs, a third Croats and a third Muslims," he was quoted as saying Monday.

**Mabbutt's career in jeopardy**  
LONDON (AFP) — The career of former England defender Gary Mabbutt is in danger following the horrific facial injuries he suffered in a challenge by Wimbledon striker John Fashanu last month. The Tottenham captain, who has returned to light training, must undergo two more operations to have any chance of making a comeback. He needs to have the steel plate removed that has been inserted over his injured right eye and further corrective surgery is required on his eye socket. "That plate has to come out for Gary to have any chance of playing again," Spurs manager Ossie Ardiles told Monday's Daily Mirror newspaper.

## Aamodt, Mader rejoin battle in downhill

MILAN (R) — All-rounders Kjetil Andre Aamodt and Gunther Mader renew their battle for top spot in the World Cup as the men's Alpine skiers return to action after a short Christmas break with a downhill in Bormio, Italy, Wednesday.

Norway's Aamodt currently tops the overall standings with 479 points while Austria's Mader is 30 points back in third place. Italian Alberto Tomba separates them but does not race the downhill.

The skiers are sure to have mixed feelings about the first race during the Christmas holiday period for almost a decade: Aamodt and his compatriots having just a couple of days at home in Norway after last Wednesday's super-G in Lech, Austria.

North American speedmen such as A.J. Kitt of the United States fared worse they spent the festive season in Europe as time did not permit them to cross the Atlantic.

The International Ski Federation (FIS) insisted on holding a race this week as they felt it would help improve the profile of the sport: Bormio in the northern region of Lombardy stepped in when Laax, Switzerland, had problems finding accommodation for the World Cup circuit during the peak season.

It is the first time the top racers have returned to Bormio since the 1985 World Championships — attempts to stage other races being hit by a lack of snow.

That will not be a problem this year as the Italian Alps had a white Christmas and the downhillers will face a steep and very demanding course in what looks likely to be another unpredictable contest.

The two previous downhills of the season were staged in the Italian resort of Val Gardena earlier this month.

Markus Foser of Liechtenstein created a sensation by winning the first from start number 66 while Olympic downhill champion Patrick Ortlieb of Austria restored order by claiming the second.

Ortlieb would be among the favourites here but has been suffering from a heavy bout of influenza, spending Christmas wrapped up in bed.

## Baggio dedicated European award to Buddhist master

ROME (R) — Newly-crowned European Footballer of the Year Roberto Baggio has dedicated his award to the leader of a Japanese lay Buddhist organisation.

"I dedicate it to Daisaku Ikeda, my master, the president of Soka Gakkai, the Buddhist school which I follow," Baggio said in an interview in Monday's Gazzetta Dello Sport.

Baggio, of Juventus and Italy, was awarded the prestigious European title Sunday to add to the world title he received from FIFA last week.

He was an easy winner in the annual poll of European sports journalists conducted by the weekly France Football.

The pony-tailed Baggio converted to Buddhism five years ago. He said he met Ikeda in Japan last summer, describing the meeting as "very important."

Soka Gakkai, the lay affiliate of a Buddhist community set up in the 13th century, backs Japan's Komeito Political Party.

Ikeda has headed Soka Gakkai since 1960. Since then it has established schools, colleges and one of Japan's largest art collections.

Baggio has reached the top despite rupturing cruciate ligaments in his knee in 1985 when playing for third division Vicenza, an injury which threatened to put a premature end to his career.

The Juventus attacker said he has to perform special exercises to prevent further injury problems.

"For eight years I've had to work with weights several times per week, two hours per session, to maintain the muscle tone at its maximum. The knee doesn't give me problems but the tendon does — If I lose a bit of tone there is a high risk of injury," Baggio said.

## Beijing leads Olympic hopefuls

LAUSANNE, Switzerland (AFP) — Beijing heads a list of around 15 cities from 11 countries interested in staging the 2004 Olympic Games, it was revealed here Friday. Beijing lost out to Sydney for the 2000 showpiece but an International Olympic Committee (IOC) weekly review revealed the city looked set to try again. No official bids have yet been received. The IOC deadline is March 1, 1996, with the choice made in 1997. Other interested cities, according to the publication, include Istanbul, Cairo, Sevilla, Buenos Aires and Stockholm. A joint bid could also be put in by South Africa's Cape Town, Johannesburg and Durban.

## Anand held to draw in rebel chess

GRONINGEN, Netherlands (R) — Indian grandmaster Vishwanathan Anand was unexpectedly held to a draw by Latvia's Alexey Shirov Sunday in the 230,000 Professional Chess Association (PCA) qualifying tournament.

"He surprised me with his choice of opening, a Firc defence," said the 24-year-old Indian, who retained the overall lead by a slender half-point margin after seven rounds.

Anand, playing with the white pieces, offered the draw after only 16 moves and 90 minutes' play and Shirov, ranked sixth in the world, three places below him, accepted immediately.

"It was just one of those days," Anand said. "Still, I had just won three games in a row and I knew it couldn't go on for ever."

He reacted strongly to a suggestion that he had been lucky in some of his games. "Deep blue," the world's strongest chessplaying computer, has indicated that he should have lost his sixth round game to Joel Benjamin of the United States.

But Anand said: "I analysed the move Deep blue suggested but it is not true that it is a forced win for Benjamin. I don't believe it."

Experts in Groningen said the position under dispute was too complex to know whether man or machine was correct.

Anand, the world's fastest grandmaster, has scored five and a half points from his seven games in the PCA tournament, the first stage in finding a challenger for the world's top-ranked player.

Russia's Garry Kasparov. Half-a-point behind are 20-year-old Russian Sergei Tiviakov, who played an exciting draw against Garry Kasparov of the United States, and American Boris Gulko, 46, who outlasted Ukrainian Aleksandar Belyavsky in a six-hour marathon.

Eight players, including

Kamsky and England's Michael Adams, are tied for fourth place a full point behind Anand and, with four rounds still to play, could yet challenge for first place.

Kasparov is no longer the official world champion. He formed the PCA after being the auspices of the World Chess Foundation.

### GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMMAM HIRSH  
©1993 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

#### PUNISHING THE INNOCENT

East-West vulnerable.	North	five bid at the two-level.
deal.		
NORTH		
AK1083		
Q72		
Q3		
WEST	EAST	
QJ9742	Q5	
Q43	A10	
Q76	QJ109842	
543	AJ	
SOUTH		
6		
KJ9865		
Q5		
10972		

The bidding:  
North East South West  
1 20 2 Pass  
4 Pass Pass Pass  
4 Pass Pass Pass  
Opening lead: Ace of O

In a perfect world the guilty would be punished and the innocent rewarded. Unfortunately, that is the case neither in life nor at the bridge table.

East's overall of two diamonds would be made by every player we know, yet all it succeeded in doing was making declarer's life easier. Note North's decision to bid four hearts, thereby taking the strain off partner. There had to be play for game no matter how weak South's

### CONCORD

Tel.: 677420

**CONCORD '1'**  
**SOMMERSBY**  
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30

**CONCORD '2'**  
**BEAUTY AND THE BEAST**  
Shows: 12:30, 3:00, 4:45, 6:30

**Hi America Play, 8:30**

### PLAZA

Tel.: 699238

Ahmad Zaki and Mahmoud Hamideh  
in  
**AL BASHA**  
(ARABIC)  
Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 5:00, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30  
daily at 11:00 a.m.

**HOME ALONE "2"**

### PHILADELPHIA

Tel.: 634144

**Demy Moore ... in**  
**THE BUTCHER'S WIFE**  
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30  
Special show for children on  
Thu., Fri., Sat., Sun. at 11:00 a.m.

**NINJA DRAGONS**

### Nabli Al Mashini Theatre

Tel.: 675371

presents a play entitled:  
**AL Ilm Nuron**  
A popular political comedy  
Actors: Abder Issa, Daoud Jalajel, Hassan Al Shaer, Fuad Shomali  
in addition to other comedians  
Every night at 8:15  
Tickets are sold all day

### AI Dalal Establishment

Offers the largest and widest assortment of perfumes and embroidery.  
There is no need to look for the best and most competitive prices in Jordan.  
Our address: AI Dalal Establishment, Forte Grand Hotel

---

### SEMI-VILLA FOR RENT IN NORTH-WEST AMMAN

Furnished, consists of: 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 2 gilded verandas, with tel. line, centrally heated. Location: Jordan Univ. Housing area. Villa section.  
For more information call: Sawwan,  
Tel. 642021 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.  
and Tel. 665595 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

---

### HAPPY NEW YEAR

=  
Your birthstone.

**DAJANI**  
JEWELLERS  
Amra Hotel - Amman.

<h3>CONCORD</h3> <p>Tel.: 677420</p> <p><b>CONCORD '1'</b> <b>SOMMERSBY</b> Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30</p> <p><b>CONCORD '2'</b> <b>BEAUTY AND THE BEAST</b> Shows: 12:30, 3:00, 4:45, 6:30</p> <p><b>Hi America Play, 8:30</b></p>	<h3>PLAZA</h3> <p>Tel.: 699238</p> <p>Ahmad Zaki and Mahmoud Hamideh in <b>AL BASHA</b> (ARABIC) Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 5:00, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 daily at 11:00 a.m.</p> <p><b>HOME ALONE "2"</b></p>	<h3>PHILADELPHIA</h3> <p>Tel.: 634144</p> <p><b>Demy Moore ... in</b> <b>THE BUTCHER'S WIFE</b> Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 Special show for children on Thu., Fri., Sat., Sun. at 11:00 a.m.</p> <p><b>NINJA DRAGONS</b></p>	<h3>Nabli Al Mashini Theatre</h3> <p>Tel.: 675371</p> <p>presents a play entitled: <b>AL Ilm Nuron</b> A popular political comedy Actors: Abder Issa, Daoud Jalajel, Hassan Al Shaer, Fuad Shomali in addition to other comedians Every night at 8:15 Tickets are sold all day</p>	<h3>Nabli &amp; Hisham's Tel.: 625155</h3> <p><b>AHLAN THEATRE</b> The political comedy <b>WELCOME ARAB SUMMIT</b> Daily 8:30 p.m. The theatre closes Saturday and Sunday English synopsis available The Theatre will be closed from Dec. 24, 1993 until further notice.</p>
---	---	---	--	--



## U.N. gives priority to Gulf crisis claims related to death, injuries

### Upto \$5m to be paid in April; other claims in July

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A U.N. compensation fund is expected to review more than 1,000 claims related to death and injury resulting from the August 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, and plans to disburse between \$3 million and \$5 million in April. The bulk of claims related to fatalities and injuries are from Kuwait and Jordan, according to U.N. officials.

By July, the special U.N. compensation commission expects to begin settling claims worth between \$100 million and \$200 million in claims related to personal losses by displacement and in property.

Jordanians have filed more than 60,000 claims with the Geneva-based commission; several hundreds of them are directly related to death and injuries.

The Jordanian claims total more than \$3 billion. The claims are categorised as A, B and C for individuals who were forced to flee from Kuwait or Iraq as a result of the invasion, for those who suffered death or serious injury, and for individual losses of property up to \$100,000. Most of the Jordanian claims fall under category A.

A three-member commission, set up under U.N. Security Council Resolution 692 of 1991, has begun reviewing the claims it has received, said Carlos Alzamor, executive secretary of the panel.

The findings and recom-

mendations of the panel will be submitted to a governing council of the commission in 120 days, said a statement made available to the Jordan Times by the Amman-based Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), a U.N. agency.

This would make the compensation operation an irreversible reality and reaffirm the faith of millions of claimants all over the world in the attainment of international justice within the framework of U.N.-established organs," the statement said.

It said category B of the claims was being given priority in the commission's review. This relates to the "most sensitive humanitarian cases — deaths and serious injuries."

Individual claims are entitled to receive \$2,500 each, while families will receive a maximum of \$10,000 under this group.

"The majority of claims are from Kuwait and Jordan," the U.N. statement said, adding that category A also includes claims from Australia, Bahrain, China, Czech Republic, France, Iran, Japan, Kenya, Mauritius, New Zealand, Pakistan, Poland, Sri Lanka, Thailand, the United Kingdom, the U.S. and the former Yugoslavia.

The commission will start work on reviewing claims in the A and C categories in February, with recommendations due in June and settlements expected in July covering up to 50,000 claimants.

The commission has re-

ceived \$29 million in both voluntary contributions and transfers made to its account from frozen Iraqi assets.

Western diplomats said another U.N. account had accrued more than \$300 million after several countries, Saudi Arabia and the U.S. among them, transferred outstanding payments to Iraq to that account in line with a separate Security Council resolution.

However, many governments, which face claims from local commercial entities of losses as a result of the invasion, have not transferred the oil accounts to the U.N.

Part of the funds already moved to the U.N. is expected to be sent to the compensation fund for individuals in time for the commission to make settlements, diplomats said. The rest could be held back to handle U.N. costs related to implementing the Gulf war ceasefire terms.

Total claims for compensation through the commission, which does not handle government claims or claims from companies which may have lost contracts or incurred other losses as a result of the invasion, are expected to run into nearly \$10 billion.

As when the Security Council lifts the international sanctions against Iraq and allows the country to export oil, Baghdad is supposed to remit 30 per cent of all oil revenues to the U.N. to settle not only the individual claims but compensation for government and commercial entities — a process that could

stretch into tens of years. Kuwait alone is expected to file for \$170 billion in damages; an amount that could represent the total oil earnings of Iraq for the next 15 or 20 years.

No estimates are available on the possible total of claims that governments and commercial firms are expected to file.

"In all probability, Iraq could remain crippled under the burden of claims for several decades if Baghdad were to honour its obligations under the U.N. resolutions," commented an Arab diplomat.

If Iraq drops its objections and accepts a one-time Iraqi sale of oil worth \$1.6 billion to raise funds for food and medicine for Iraqis then 30 per cent of that proceeds would also have been allocated to the compensation fund in addition to another 10 to 15 per cent for U.N. costs related to implementing the Gulf war ceasefire terms.

Mohammad Benouna of Morocco, a professor of law, member of the International Law Commission and president of the Institute du Monde Arabe in Paris, heads the review panel related to category B claims. Other members are Denis Bindschedler-Robert of Switzerland, a professor of international law and president of the Institute des Droits de l'Homme at Strasbourg, and Fan Ching of China, a renowned diplomat and expert in international humanitarian affairs and compensation procedures.



A Palestinian woman and her children walk past Israeli soldiers on patrol in downtown Gaza (AFP photo)

## Power struggle hits Gaza after Arafat's old guard appointments

GAZA CITY, occupied Gaza Strip (AP) — A power struggle broke into the open Monday between young leaders of the uprising in Gaza and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) old guard leadership in Tunis after Yasser Arafat named traditional figures to top posts.

The resignations came after the PLO chairman appointed Zakaria Al Agha, a 55-year-old doctor, as Gaza's Fatah representative and Mansour Shawwa, 45, as mayor of Gaza, a position long held by his late father. Both are traditional leaders from large influential families.

Tawfik Abu Khusha, 33, and Zakaria Talmas, 30, resigned Monday after the head of the Fatah office in Gaza, Sami Abu Samhandanah, 31, walked out on Sunday night. Jamil Al Deek, a PLO activist in the West Bank, also resigned, and Palestinian sources said more departures were expected.

Those who resigned complained Mr. Arafat ignored local leaders who had paid a heavy price in jail time and blood during the six-year intifada that paved the way for the current peace process.

"The leadership has shoved aside the people who have struggled, who have sacrificed for the cause," Mr. Talmas said.

"It's those people who have lived in underground tunnels and not in luxurious hotels who should be the leaders of the movement."

"We are protesting the principle of appointment," said Mr. Abu Khusha. "What has happened to democracy?"

Mr. Agha, who served three months in jail during the uprising and lost his job as head of an Israeli-run hospital for his political activism, said the resignations were not the only ones who had suffered.

"With all due respect to them," Mr. Agha said, "they are not the only ones who have sacrificed for Palestine. There are thousands of people who sacrificed."

Freih Abu Medeen, a member of the Palestinian team that has been negotiating the details of an autonomy agreement with Israel, said the resignations would have no effect on the peace process.

"This is an internal matter that won't have any adverse effects on the implementation of the accord," the told the Association Press.

The resignations are further signs of a power struggle over who will be in charge when Palestinians gain autonomy in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank region of Jericho.

Some resignations, notably that of Hanan Ashrawi, who stepped down as spokeswoman

for the Palestinians recently, were prompted by calls for the PLO to be more democratic and complaints that Mr. Arafat made decisions without consulting colleagues. Six of the 18-member PLO Executive Committee in Tunis have also resigned.

"There is something wrong with the PLO system that cannot be fixed, and that is why I decided to quit," said Mr. Abu Samhandanah, a refugee from the Rafah camp, who played a leading role in mustering the support of young Palestinians for the Israel-PLO accord, signed Sept. 13.

Mr. Abu Samhandanah, Mr. Abu Khusha and Mr. Talmas represent the younger generation of Palestinians molded in the street battles of the intifada.

Mr. Abu Samhandanah served a total of nine years in Israeli jails, including five years in which he was held in "administrative detention" without trial for being a leader of the underground. Mr. Abu Khusha, jailed a dozen times, served five years and Mr. Talmas two years.

From the "occupation generation," many are fluent in Hebrew but had credibility with fugitive underground fighters and thus became an address for Israel in seeking solutions to local problems.

## Cairo attack wounds 16 Austrians, Egyptians

CAIRO (Agencies) — Militants, renewing their campaign against Western tourists in Egypt, threw bombs at a tour bus Monday and wounded 16 people, half of them visitors from Austria.

The eight others wounded were Egyptian bystanders, who increasingly have been caught up in the violence.

Witnesses said two men in their late teens threw two bombs at about 8:30 a.m. (0630GMT) as the bus was headed for the Coptic Hanging Church, a popular tourist site. The men opened fire with pistols while running away, shouting to people to "keep away."

Two of the Austrian victims were wounded seriously, said Dr. Ahmad Musa, a physician at Kasr Al Aini hospital. The Egyptian victims were hit by shrapnel from one bomb that bounced off the ground and exploded in front of a coffee shop.

"We heard a terrible noise, a terrible crash," Ernst Nowotne, a passenger from Vienna, said at Kasr Al Aini hospital. "I saw something coming through the window. At first I thought it was a stone, but it was no stone — it was a bomb."

Mr. Nowotne said he was having trouble with his hearing from the blast. His wife, Maria, was injured in the foot. The attack took place in the old Cairo area, across from an ancient mosque and not far from the Hanging Church, so named because its nave is suspended over an ancient fortress gatehouse.

Monday's incident was the first commando-style attack on foreigners in the Egyptian capital, where the authorities have stepped up security for the Christmas and New Year holiday season.

The militant campaign has

driven away foreign holidaymakers, costing Egypt almost \$1.3 billion in lost revenue this year, according to Tourism Minister Mamdouh Al Baltagui (see page 2).

Witnesses said three young men lay in wait for the bus in a roadside cafe near the Amr Ben Al As Mosque.

"I saw three men sitting in the cafe. A boy stood up holding something round in his hand which looked like a stone and threw it at the bus," a man in his twenties told Reuters.

"People in the cafe stood up to see what was happening. Suddenly one of the three, he had a revolver in his hand, told everybody 'don't move' and started shooting at the bus."

"Then the three ran away and people ran after them. But they couldn't catch them because they turned round and started shooting again."

Police closed all roads into the area, a maze of narrow alleys and overcrowded tenements, and were hunting for the attackers.

Militants have wrecked Egypt's tourist industry over the last 18 months by shooting and bombing tour buses and Nile river cruises as part of a violent campaign to overthrow the government (see page 2).

The government has fought back, hanging 29 militants since mid-June — the biggest number of executions for political crimes in any year this century.

Attacks on tourists stopped in June but began again in September, when gunmen shot at two Nile cruises.

Attacks on police slowed but have recently surged again. Eighteen policemen have been killed in December, the highest police death toll in any month during two years of violence.

## Hardliners haggle over power, strategy

By Jamal Halaby  
The Associated Press

AMMAN — Marxist Palestinian factions Monday assailed their fundamentalist peers in a hardline alliance opposed to the Israel-PLO autonomy accord, raising the prospect of a split in the newly formed coalition.

The Popular and Democratic Fronts for the Liberation of Palestine accused Hamas of seeking to dominate the alliance of Palestinian forces, established Dec. 16.

Abdul Rahim Mallouh of the Popular Front, the second largest faction within the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) said Hamas was insisting on controlling nearly half the 50 seats in a leadership council of the alliance.

Mr. Mallouh said Hamas wanted 40 per cent of the seats in the council, arguing this would reflect its strength among the Palestinians and "that they are the most active faction in the occupied territories against the autonomy accord."

He described the Hamas demand as "unjust and unfair" for the nine other hardline factions and independents represented in the Syria-based alliance.

Saji Salameh of the Democratic Front, also rejecting the Hamas demand, accused the fundamentalist group of claiming credit for anti-Israeli attacks in the occupied territories carried out by his faction.

The Democratic Front, the third largest group within the PLO, also is upset that Hamas is making conciliatory gestures to Israel and holding clandestine meetings with senior Israeli military officials.

Hamas, whose leaders have sometimes signalled willing-

ness to take part in elections for a Palestinian self-rule authority under the Sept. 13 Israel-PLO autonomy deal, rejects the charges.

Mohammad Nazzal, Hamas' representative in Jordan, played down the rift and said "it is only natural to have different viewpoints within a coalition."

"We have gone a long way to bring this coalition to life," Mr. Nazzal said. "I hope that other groups will be up to the responsibility and not be hasty in judgement."

He told the Associated Press that the hardliners would hold a meeting in Damascus on Thursday to thrash out their differences.

Mr. Mallouh and Mr. Salameh said, however, that their parties would insist on Thursday's meeting on elections for the leadership council rather than the system of allocation as proposed by Hamas.

The Alliance of Palestinian Forces is an unlikely grouping of factions espousing ideologies ranging from Marxism and socialism to religious extremism. They are held together by their common goal of wrecking the 25-month-old, U.S.-backed Middle East peace process.

In addition to the Popular and Democratic Fronts and Hamas, other groups in the alliance are:

The fundamentalist Islamic Jihad; Hizbollah-Palestine; the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command and Fatah Uprising; a dissident faction of PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's mainstream group; as well as splinter groups of the pro-Iraq Palestine Liberation Front, the Arab Liberation Front and the Fatah-Revolutionary Council.

## Afghan truce is stillborn

KABUL (AP) — Rival forces of Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani and Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar battled with rockets and mortars Monday, shattering an agreed truce before it could take effect.

Five rockets landed inside Kabul wounding at least five people while the two sides exchanged rocket and mortar fire on Sherardwaza mountains south of the capital, witnesses said.

There was no immediate information about the cause of the latest fighting, only a day after the Afghan cabinet announced a ceasefire between the two sides to be effective from Monday in the eastern districts of Tagob and Sarobi.

Government jets were bombing Tagob area even on Monday although four teams had been sent to the area to monitor the agreed ceasefire, a source from Mr. Hekmatyar's hardline Hezb-e-Islami party said.

Sunday's truce was aimed first at stopping about two months of fighting in Tagob and Sarobi but was later to have been applied nationally, government sources said.

Sources at the Defence Ministry, which is controlled by Mr. Rabbani, accused Hezb-e-Islami of starting Monday's fighting. No comment was immediately available from Mr. Hekmatyar, who lives at his fortified Charasyab base south of Kabul.

Presidential spokesman Abdul Aziz Morad said forces loyal to Mr. Rabbani were prepared to respect the ceasefire and "it is for Hekmatyar to choose between war and peace."

The forces of northern warlord General Abdul Rashid Dostum will remain neutral and try to mediate between the two sides, a spokesman for Gen. Dostum said.

Gen. Rahmatullah Raufi, Gen. Dostum's representative in Kabul, appealed to Afghan leaders to resolve their differences peacefully.

The ceasefire had the backing of both the president and the prime minister, a spokesman said on Sunday after a cabinet meeting.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Ghali receives message from Libya

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) — Libya's ambassador to China delivered a message from his government to U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali in Beijing at the weekend, Dr. Ghali's spokesman said Monday. The spokesman gave no detail about the message from Libyan Foreign Minister Omar Al Muntasser, but it came a month after the Security Council tightened sanctions against Tripoli for its refusal to hand over two men suspected of blowing up a U.S. airliner over Scotland in 1988, killing 270 people. The message was handed over by Libya's ambassador to China, Muftah Madi, in a meeting with Dr. Ghali in Beijing Sunday.

### Demirel disappointed over ties with Greece

ANKARA (AP) — President Suleyman Demirel on Monday accused Greece of creating tensions that could threaten regional stability. Mr. Demirel said Greece was including Turkey, Macedonia, Thrace the Aegean and Cyprus "in the region of Hellenistic and political doctrine," creating tension and futile struggles. "I would like to hope that Greece will refrain from initiatives that could wreck stability in the region," Mr. Demirel told a news conference.

### Talabani group claims victory in clashes

NICOSIA (AP) — The Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) claimed victory Monday in week-long clashes with the small fundamentalist Islamic Movement in Kurdistan (IMK). "Scores of IMK militiamen and senior officials have surrendered to the PUK in most parts of (Iraqi) Kurdistan," said a PUK communique. It gave no casualty figures. It added that the leader of the Islamic Movement of Kurdistan, Mullah Osman Abdul Aziz, was reportedly being escorted to Irbil in the company of the commander of the PUK forces, Jalal Talabani. The communique was telephoned to the Associated Press by the "regional government of Iraqi Kurdistan." The "government" was established in the autonomous Kurdish region carved out in northern Iraq in the wake of the 1991 Gulf war.

### Turkish minister holds talks in Qatar

DOHA (AP) — Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin held talks Monday with the Qatari leadership designed to enhance traditional close relations and coordinate policies on regional issues. Mr. Cetin, who arrived in Qatar on Sunday, was received by the emir, Sheikh Khalifa Bin Hamad Al Thani, Crown Prince Sheikh Hamad Ben Khalifa Al Thani and Foreign Minister Sheikh Hamad Ben Jassem Ben Jabr Al Thani. The official Qatari news agency said the talks covered means of expanding relations in the political, economic and trade fields, the Middle East peace process and Bosnia-Herzegovina. No details were provided but the agency also reported that Mr. Cetin delivered a message from Prime Minister Tansu Ciller to the crown prince, who would be her counterpart.

### 24 killed, 100,000 affected by typhoon Nell

MANILA (AFP) — At least 24 people were killed and 16 others reported missing as typhoon Nell swept across the central and southern Philippines prompting President Fidel Ramos to declare a state of calamity, officials said Monday. The government's National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC) said 109,256 people were either left homeless or had their farms and property damaged during Nell's rampage Sunday. Nell, the third powerful typhoon to strike the country this month, slammed into the northern end of the main southern island of Mindanao early Sunday before slashing across a string of islands in the central Philippines overnight.

## COLUMN

### British woman aged 59 gives birth to twins

LONDON (R) — A 59-year-old Briton has become the oldest woman on record to have twins after giving birth to test-tube babies on Christmas Day, a British newspaper reported Monday. The woman, who was not named, was given fertility treatment by controversial Italian doctor Severino Antinori and had her babies by Caesarean section in a London clinic Saturday, the Sun said in what it billed as a world exclusive. The case caused a fierce controversy about post-menopausal mothers when it first became public in July, mid-way through the woman's pregnancy. The Sun ran six pages of comment about the ethics of the birth, noting that the mother would be 77 when her children reached official adulthood at age 18. The average British woman's lifespan is 78, it said. Dr. Antinori has helped a succession of women over 50 become mother and another of his patients, a 58-year-old Swedish woman, gave birth to twins in August. The British mother, said to be a wealthy businesswoman with no other children, was implanted with four embryos after her husband's sperm were used to fertilise eggs donated by an anonymous Italian woman in her 20s. The report, which put the cost of the treatment at around £4,000 (\$6,000), did not give the sex of the babies or the name of the London clinic. It said the woman turned 59 last month and was married to a 45-year-old economist.

### Holiday-makers hurt in S. Africa beach brawl

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Dozens of holiday-makers were hurt in brawling between blacks, whites and Indians on a beach in South Africa's port city of Durban, police and witnesses said Monday. Fighting broke out Sunday afternoon after a white man shot at a fleeing mugger. He missed but hit a black. At the same time a man died of a heart attack in a paddling pool. "Although unconnected, the incidents caused crowds of people to become very unruly and they vented their anger on policemen on the scene," a police spokesman said. Police broke up fights between blacks and whites and then between blacks and Indian crowds, a witness said. "The uproar lasted about an hour. None of the injuries were serious but police had to fire warning shots into the air to break up the warring factions. Several police vehicles were damaged," the spokesman said. No-one was arrested. Reformist President F.W. De Klerk desegregated beaches in October 1989, a few months before he freed ANC leader Nelson Mandela, unbanned political groups and began negotiations to dismantle apartheid.

### Japanese parliament is millionaires club

TOKYO (R) — The son and nephew of a gambling tycoon are the richest members of Japan's parliament, while Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa is the deputy poorest in debt, according to a parliamentary report issued Monday. The report said the average Japanese member of parliament owned assets worth 91.3 million yen (\$830,000) and had loans of about 36.5 million yen (\$331,000). Average assets were down about 1.5 per cent from a similar report issued in June, before general elections in July. The latest report said the richest of the 511-member lower house was Eitaro Itoyama, a conservative without party affiliation and nephew of gambling magnate Ryoichi Sasagawa. Mr. Itoyama's assets were worth about 5.05 billion yen (\$45.9 million). Mr. Sasagawa's son Takashi, also a lower house member, came in second with 4.09 billion yen (\$37.1 million) in assets. The elder Sasagawa controls the country's popular and lucrative motorboat racing circuit in which punters wager on uniformly powered boats on a circular course. Hosokawa's assets were 98 million yen (\$890,000) against bank and other loans outstanding worth 930 million yen (\$8.45 million) and attributable to his political campaigns, the report said.

محور العمل